

Heeues falling out, I rue
men come by their Goods: 74

OR

The Belman wanted a Clapper.

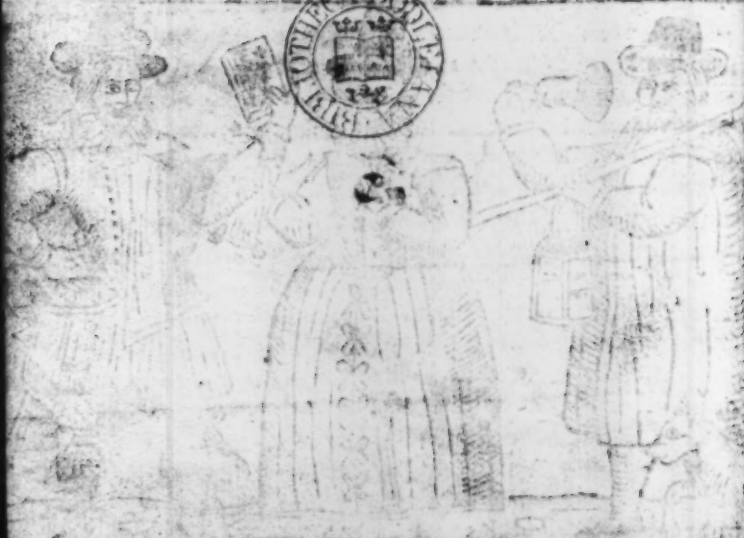
A Peale of new Villanies rung out: The sound being Muscalle to
Gentlemen, Lawyers, Farmers, and all sorts of people that come
vp to the Teame: Shewing that the Villanies of lewd
Women excell those of Men.

By ROBERT GREENE.

Goe not by mee, but Buy mee; and get by mee.



Imprisoned at London for Henry Bell, and are to be sold by his shop
without Bishopsgate. 1597.





TO ALL GENTLMEN,
Merchants, Apprentises, and
Countrie-farmers, health.

Newes, and green bushes at Taverns
new set vp; every man hath his
Penny to spend at a Pint in the
one, and every man his care open
to receiue the sound of the other.
It is the language which at first
meetings is used in all Countries;
what Newes? In Court, tis the Mornings Salutations;
and Noones table-talk; by Night it is stale. In Citie
tis more common, then *what doe you lacke?* And in
the Countrie, Whistling at Plough is not of greater
Antiquitie. VValk the middle Ile in *Pauls*, and
Gentlemen's teeth walke not faster at Ordinaries, then
there a whole day together, about inquiry after *Newes*.
Newes then, being a Fish that's caught every day, and
yet a Meate for every mans Table; I thinke it not a-
miss to inuite all men to a Feast of such *Newes*, as
haue of late come in shoales into my Net. I will not
hold a Bird in a Cage to sing strange notes to my selfe,
but let her forth to delight others: And albeit (about
some two or three yeeres past) the vgly faces of diuers

THE EPISTLE.

damnd abuses, were set naked vpon euerie Post; their Vizards being flaid off, both by *Lanthorne and Candle-light*, and by the *Belman of London*: Yet Villanie, when it runnes to seed, being of all other graines the most fruitfull and luxuriant, the Candle-light was burnt to a snuffe, and the *Belman* fast asleepe, before these Monsters which now are hatcht forth, creeped out of their Dennes.

In *westminster*, the *Strand*, *Holborne*, and the chiefe places of resorts about *London*, doe they euerie day build their nests; euerie howre fledge; and in Tearme time especially flutter they abroad in flocks: You shall know them by their feathers. And because for the most part, they flye in payres, (a Cocke and a Henne together) Behold a couple newly alighted on the *Pearch*; a *Hee-Foxf*, and a *Shee-Foxf*: What they chirrup out, their owne Voyces can best deliuer; and therefore listen to them. Suppose you heare the first of them setting forth a throat thus.

Farewell,

R. G.

A Dic



A DISPUTATION

berweene a Hee-Foyst, and a Shee-

Foyst, Stephen and Kate.

Stephen.



Ere Kate, well met, what Newes about your Westminster-building, that you look so blyth, your cherry Cheekes discover your good fare; and your bzaue apparell bewayes a fat purse: is Fortune now alate growne so favourable to Foystes, that your Husband hath lighted on some large purchase? or haue your smoth lookes linkt in some young Pouice to sweate for a fauour, all the byte in his Bounge, and to leaue himselfe as many Crownes as thou hast good conditions, and then he shall be one of Pierre-penlesse fraternitie? How is it sweet Wench, goes the world on wheeles, that you tread so vaintly on your tye-toes?

Kate. Why Stephen, are you pleasant or pœuish, that you quip with such wise giras: thinke you a quartene wind cannot make a quicke sayle, that easie listes cannot make heavy butthens? that women haue not willes to compasse crownes as well as men: yes, and more, for though they be not so strong in the fist, they bee more ripe in their wits: and tis by wit that y line and will line, in despite of that peeuish scholler, that thought with his comy-catching bookes to haue crof-bit our Trade. Dost thou marry to see

Theeues falling out,

me thus brisk & faire wenches cannot want fauours, while the world is so full of amorous soles: where can such Girls as my selfe, be blenish't with a thred-bare coat, as long as country Farmers haue full purses; and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

Steph. Truth, if fortune so fauour thy Husband, that he be neither smakt nor cloyed: so I am sure, all thy wantonry comes by his slipping, foyling, and lifting.

Kate. In faith sir no: did I get no more by mine owne wit, then I reape by his purchase, I might both goe bare and penniless the whole yeare; but mine eyes are stables, and my hands lime-twigges (else were I not worthy the name of a Whē Conny-catcher.) Cyrres had neuer more Charmes, Calipso more Inchantments, the Syrens more subtil tunes, then I haue crafty sights to inuegle a Conny, and fetch in a countrie Farmer. Stephen, belieue men, you men are but soles, your gettings are uncertaine, and yet you fill fish for the gallies: though by some great chance you light vpon a good boing, yet you fast a great while after, whereas, wee mad Wenches haue our Venants (so) so I call euery simple Letcher and amorous For as well out of Wearne as in Wearne, to bring vs out Kents: alas, were not my wits, and my wanton pranks more profitable then my husbands foyling, we might often go to bed supperlesse for want of larketing; and yet I dare sweare, my husband gets a hundred pound a yeere by boings.

Steph. Why Kate, are you growne so stiff, to thinke, that your faire looks can get as much as our nimble fingers: or that your larketing can gaine as much as our foyling? no, no, Kate, you are too bold to brave the winde: our foyll will get more then twenty the proudest Wenches in all London.

Kate. It is a little further, and giue me leave rather to hit Stephen, your tongue is too thick, till I haue spokt of; and then I haue leasure, and you no great bustling, as being now when Paul is out of, and all purchases and Con-

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the coun-
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ntes in their Barrowes, let vs to the Tauerne, and take a
 roome to our selues, and there for the price of our suppers,
 I will proue, that women (I meane of our facultis, traf-
 ficke, or as base knaues terme vs, Strumpets) are more
 subtil, more dangerous in the common-wealth, and more
 full of wiles to get crownes, then the cunningest Foyfe,
 Pip, Lift, Prigs, or whatsoeuer that liues at this day.

Steph. Content; but inha shall be moderater in our con-
 trouersies, sith in disputing pro & contra, beswift our
 selues, it is but your yea, and my nay, and so neither of vs
 will peeld to others victories?

Kate. Trust me Steph, I am so assured of the conquest, of-
 fering so in the strength of mine own arguments, that when
 I haue reasond, I will referre it to your iudgement and
 censure.

Steph. And trust me, as I am an honest man, I will bee
 indifferent.

Kate. Oh I am not so deeply: but let mee first heare
 what you can say for your selfe?

Steph. What? why more Kate, then can be painted out in
 a great volume; but briefly this: I need not describe the
 labour of villany; because the Bel-man hath so amply pend
 them downe in the first part of Conny-catching, that though
 I be one of the faculty, yet I cannot discover more then he
 hath layd open.

Therefore, first to the Gentleman Foyfe, I pray you what
 finer quality: what art is more excellent, either to trie the
 ripenesse of the wit; or the agilitie of the hand, then that for
 him that will be master of his trade, must passe the proudest
 Juggler aliuie, the points of Leger de maine? he must haue
 an eye to spie the boyng or purse, and then a heart to dare to
 attempt it: so this by the way, he that feares the gallows,
 shall neuer be good Cheeke while hee liues, hee must as the
 Cat watch for a Mouse, and walke dooles, Westminster,
 the Exchange, and such common haunted places, and there
 haue a curious eye to the person; whether hee be Gentle-
 man,

Catpurs
 their col

man, Citizen or Farmer, and note, either where his boung
lyes, whether in his hose or pockets, and then dogge the par-
ty into a pzele, where his staule with heauing and shouing
shall so molest him, that he shall not feele when we strip him
of his boung, although it be neuer so fast or cunningly cou-
ched about him: what pooze Farmer almost can come to
plead his case at the barre, to attend vpon his Lawyers at
the bench, but looke he neuer so narrowly to it we haue his
purse, wherein sometime there is fat purchase, twentie or
thirty pounds; and I pray you, how long would one of your
Traffickes be earning so much with your Chamber worke?
Besides, in Faires and markets, and in the circuits after
Judges, what infinit money is gotten from honest meanifull
men, that either busie about their necessarie affaires, or care-
lessly looking to their crowns, light amongst vs that be folists:
tush we dissemble in show, we go so neat in apparell, so or-
derly in outward appearance, some like Lawyers, Clerkes,
others like Seruingmen, that attended there about their
Masters businesse, that we are hardly smokt, verling vpon
all men with kinde courtesies and faire words, and yet be-
ing so warily watchfull, that a good purse cannot be put by
in a Faire, but wee sigh if we share it not amongst vs: and
though the bookes of Conny-catching haue somewhat hin-
dered vs, and brought many bzaie fopps to the halter, yet
some of our country Farmers, nay of our Gentlemen and
Citizens, are so carelesse in a throng of people, that they
threw vs the pze, and so draw on a thiefe, and bequeath vs
their purses whether we will or no: so, who loues wine so
ill, that he will not eate Grapes if they fall into his mouth:
and who is so base, that if he see a pocket faire before him,
will not fopst in it he may, or if fopking will not serue, vse
his knife and nip, for although there be some fopps that will
not vse their knives, yet I hold him not a perfect workman
or master of his myserie, that will not cut a purse as well
as fopst a pocket, and hazard any limme for so sweet a gaine
as gold: how answere you me this briefe oblation Kate?

shapes.

True men come by their Goods.

can you compare with either our cunning to get our gaires in purchase?

Kate. And haue you no stronger arguments, god man Stephen, to argue your excellency in villany but this: then in faith put by your pipes, and giue me leave to speak: your chop-logicke hath no great subtiltie: for simply you reason of soylsing, and appropriate that to your selues, to you men I meane, as though there were not women Foyles & Pips, as neat in that trade as you, of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and of as resolute a heart: yes Stephen, and your god mytresses in that mistery; for we without like suspicion can passe in your walkes vnder the colour of simplicity to Westminster, with a paper in our hand, as if we were distressed women, that had some supplication to put vp to the Iudges, or some bill of information to deliuer to our Lawyers, when surely we shuffle in for a boung as well as the best of you all, yea, as your selfe Stephen, though you be called, king of Cutpurfes: for though they smooke pot, they will hardly mistrust vs, and suppose our stomakes stand against it to sayt, yet who can better play the stalle of the Thawes then we, for in a thrust or throng if wee moue hard, who is he that wil not fauour a woman, and in giuing place to vs, giue you free passage for his Purse. Again, in the market, when every wile hath almost her hand on her bang, and that they trie, betwene the Cutpurse and Conny-catchers, then I as fast as the best with my hand-basket, as mannerly, as if I were to buy great store of butter and eggs, for provision of my house, doe exclaim against them with my hand on my purse, and say, the wost is badde, when a woman cannot walke safely to market, for feare of these villanous Cutpurfes, when as the first boung I come to, I either nip or soyle, or else stalle another, while he hath crucken, dispatche and gone.

Now, I pray you, gentle sir, where am I inferior to you in soylsing? and yet this is nothing to the purpose. For it is one of our most simple shifts: but yet, I pray you, what

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thinks you when a Farmer, Gentleman, or Citizen, comes to the Tearme, perhaps he is wary of his purse, and watch him neuer so warily, yet hee will neuer bee brought to the blow, is it not possible for vs to pinch him ere he passe? He that is most chary of his crownes abroad, and will crie, *Ware the Conny-catchers*, will not bee afraid to drinke a pint of wine with a pretty wench, and perhaps goe to a trugging house to ferry one out for his purpose, then with what cunning wee can feede the simple Foppe, with what faire wordes, sweet kisses, fained sighes, as if at that instant wee fell in loue with him that we neuer saw before: If we meet him in the euening in the street, if the Farmer, or other whatsoeuer, be not so forward as to motion some curtesie to vs, we straight insinuate into his companie, and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his mind be set for lust, and the diuell byleue him on to match himselfe with some dishonest wanton, then let him look to his purse; for if he do but kisse me in the street, *He haue his purse* for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all, I speake not this only by my selfe Stephen, for there be a hundred in London more cunning then my selfe in Conny-catching. But if he come into a house, then let our trade alone so verse vpon him, for first we saue our selues hungry, for the benefit of the house, although our bellies were neuer so full, and no doubt the Warden, or Balde, shal come forth like a sober Patron, and set a stoe of Cates on the Table, and then I fall aboord on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make haucke of all, and let him be sure euertie dish is well saued, for he shall pay for a Pippin pee that cost in the Market foure pence, at one of the Trugging houses, 20. pence: thus, what is daintie if it be not deare bought, and yet hee must come off for crownes besides: and when I see him draw to his purse, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere we part, the wozlo goes hard if I forget him not of all that he hath: and then suppose the wozlo that he muste it, am I so simply acquainted, or badly provided, that I haue not a friend,

True-men come by their Goods.

that I have not a friend, which with a few terrible Dabbes and countenance set, as if he were the proudest Souldado, that eber bare armes in the Low country warres, will face him out of his money, and make him walke like a Widdow, ecke home-ward by weeping Crosse and so by repentance with all the crotones in his Purse. Now say you to this Stephen, whether Tre women Foists inferiour to you in ordinary cozenage or no.

Steph. Excellently well reasoned, thou hast told me wonders: but wench, though you be witty and strike often, your blowes are not so big as ours.

Kate. Oh but note the subject of our disputation, and that is this, which are moze subtil and dangerous in the Common wealth, and to that I argue.

Steph. I, and beseech me, but you reason quaintly; yet will I proue your wits are not so ripe as ours, nor so ready to reach into the subtilties of kinde cozenage, and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellency of Conny-catching, and that you doe it with moze Art then we men doe, because of your painted flatteries and sugred words, that you flourish rethorically, like nets to catch soles, yet will I manifest with a merry instance, a feate done by a Foist, that excéded any that eber was don by any mad Wench in England.

A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorne to have his Purse cut or drawne from him, and how a Foist served him.

IT was told me of a truth, that not long since here in London, there lay a country Farmer, with others of his neighbours about law matters; amongst whom, one of them going to Westminster-hall, was by a Foist stript of all the pence in his purse, and coming home, made great complaint of his misfortune, some lamented his losse, and others exclaimed against the Cutpurse, but this Farmer

Theeves falling out,

hee laught loudly at the matter, and said such soles as could not keepe their Purles no siter, were well serbed; and for my part quoth hee, I so much scorne the Cutpurses, that I would thanke him heartily that would take paines to foyll mine: well sayes his neighbour, then you may thanke me, sith my harmes learne you to beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out betwene the cup and the lip you know not what hands Fortune may put in your owne lap; tush quoth the Farmer, heers forty pounds in this Purle in gold, the woudest Cutpurse in England win it and weare it; thus hee boasted, There stood a subtile foyll by and heard al, smiling to himselfe at the folly of the proud Farmer, and vowed to have his Purle, or venture his neck for it, and so went home, and bewrayed it to a crue of his companions, who toke it in Dudgeon, that they should be put downe by a pesant: but wheresoever they met, they held a conbocation, and both consulted, and concluded all, by a generall consent, to bend all their wits to be possessors of this Farmers Bounge, and for the execution of this their bow, they haunted about the Inne where he lay, and dogged him into diuers places, both to VVestminster hall, and other places and yet could neuer light upon it, he was so watchfull and snoopht them so narrow'y, that all their traueell was in vaine: at last, one of them fled to a more cunning policie, and went and learned the mans name and where he dwelt, and then he hied him to the Counter and entred an action against him of trespass, damages two hundreth pounds: when he had thus done, he led two Sericants, and carried them down with him to the mans lodging, wishing them not to arrest him till he commanded them, well agreed they were, and down to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crue of foylls, whom he had made priue to the end of his practise, stood waiting, but he toke no knowledge at all of them, but walked up and down: the Farmer came out and went to Paules, the Cutpurse bad stay, and would not yet suffer the Officers to meddle with him, till hee

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don, there lay a country Farmer, with diners of his
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all the pence in his purse, and cunningly hawke, made great
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True men come by their Goods.

piety went; began, after twice meeting, to waie familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging; after a litle nice louing and bidding shee was content for her supper, and what else he would bestow vpon her, for shee held it scorn, she sayd, to set a salary price on her body: the Foyst was glad of this; yet he would not trust her, so that he put no more but tenne shillings in his pocket, but he had aboue twenty pounds quilted in his doublet: Well, to be shott, supper time came, and thither comes my gentle Foyst, who making good chere, was so eager of his game, that he would straight to bed, by the leaue of same Watw, who had her set to, and there he lay till about midnight, where three or foure old Hacksters, whom she had prouided vpon purpose, came to the doore and rapt lustily. Who is there, saies the Watw, looking out of the window: Wary, say they, such a Justice (and named one about the Citie that is a mortall enemy to Cutpurses) who is now come to search your house for a Jesuite and other suspected persons. Alas sir, sayes she, I haue none here. Well, quoth they: Ope the doore. I wil, sayes she: and with that she came into the Foystes Chamber: who heard al this, and was afraid it was some search for him, so that he desired the Watw to helpe him, that he might not be seene. Why then (quoth she) Step into this Closet. He whipt in hastily, and neuer remembred his cloathes: shee lockt him in safe, and then let in the crue of Wake-hels, who making as though they searcht euery Chamber, came at last into that where his Lemman lay, and asked her what she was: What, as if she had been afraid, desired their worshipps to be good to her, she was a poore Countre mayd come vp to the Team. And who is that, quoth they, that was in bed with you? Done forsooth, sayes she. No, sayes one, that is a ly, here is the print of two; and besides, where soeuer the Foyst is, here is his skine, for this is his Doublet and Vase: Then down shee falls vpon her knees, and sayes, indeed it was her husband. Your Husband, quoth they: nay that cannot be (Minion) for where then would you haue denied him at the first? With

The Wale
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With that, one of them turns to the Bawd, and did questi-
on with her what hee was, and where he was: Truly sir,
sayes she, they came to my house, and sayd they were man
and wife; and for my part I knew them for no other, and hee
being afraid, is indeed (to confesse the troth) shut up in the
Closet. No doubt (if it please your worship, sayes one
rake hell) I warrant you, he is some notable Cutpurse or
pickpocket, that is afraid to shew his face, come and open
the Closet, and let vs looke on him: Nay sir, sayes she, not
for to night; I beseech your worship carry no man out of my
house, I will giue my word hee shall be forth-coming to
morrow morning. Your word, dame Bawd, sayes one, tis
not worth a straw. You huswife, that sayes yett are his
wife, ye shall goe with vs: and for him, that we may be sure
he may not start, He take his Doublet, Hose, and Cloake,
and to morrow He send them to him by one of my men;
were there a thousand pounds in them, there shall not bee a
penny diminisht. The Whore kneld downe on her knees,
and fained to crie pittifully, and desired the Justice, (which
was one of her companions) not to carry her to Prison.
Yes huswife, quoth he, your mate and you shall not tarrie
together in one house, that you may make your tales al one,
and therefore bying her away: and after, ye dame Bawd, see
you lend him no other cloaths, for I will send his in the mor-
ning betimes, and come you with him to answer for lodge-
ing him. I will sir, sayes she: and so away goes the Whench
and her companions laughing, and left the Bawd and the
Fopst. As soone as the Bawd thought good, she vnlockt the
Closet, and curst the time that euer they came in her house;
now (quoth she) here will be a saye adoe, hold will you an-
swere for your selfe: I feare me I shall bee in danger of the
Cart. Well (quoth hee) to be short, I would not for forty
pounds come afoze the Justice. Spary, no more would I,
quoth she; let me shitt, if you were conuicted here, but I
haue not a ragge of mans apparell in the house. Why (quoth
hee) seeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put a-
bout

True men come by their Goods.

bout me, and I will scape to a friends house of mine. When leave me a patonie, quoth the Bawd: Alas, I haue none, sayes he, but this Ring on my finger. Why that, quoth she, or tarrie while the Justice comes: so he gaue it her, took the Blanket and went his waies; whither I know not, but to some friends house of his. Thus was this willy Foppe, by the wit of a subtile wench, cunningly stript of all that he had, and turnd to grasse to get moze fat.

Kate. How say you to this deuise Stephen, was it not excellent? What think you of a womans wit, if it can worke such wonders?

Steph. Marry, I thinke, my mother was wiser then all the honest women of the Parish besides.

Kate. Why then be like shee was of our faculty, and a Patrone of my profession, nimble of her hand, quick of her tongue, and light of her taple; I should haue put in, Sir reuerence: but a soule word is good enough so; a filthy knaue.

Steph. I am glad you are so pleasant Kate, you were not so merry when you went to Dunstable: but indeede I must needs confesse, that women Foppes, if they be carefull in their trades, are (though not so common) yet moze dangerous then men Foppes: Women haue quicke wits, as they haue short heeles; and they can get with pleasure, what we shew so with danger: but now giuing you the Bucklers at this weapon, let me haue a blow at you with another.

Kate. But befoze you induce any moze Arguments, by your leave in a little by-talke. You know, Stephen, that though you can fop, nip, pig, list, carbe, and vse the Blacke art, yet you cannot crosbite without the helpe of a Wilmann: which crosbiking now adayes, is growne to a maruelous profitable exercise; so some cowardly Anaues that so feare of the Gallowes, leaue nipping and fopping, become Crosbites, knowing there is no danger therein but a little punishment, at the most the Pillorie, and that is saued with a little Vaguentum Aureum: as so; example; W. C. is now a reformed man, whatsoeuer he hath been in his youth, now

in his latter daies he is growen a corrector of Vice; for wh^o soener he takes suspitious with his wife, I warrant you, he sets a sure fine on his head, though he hath nothing for his money but a bare kisse: & in this Art, we poore Wenches are your surest props and stay. If you will not beleue mee, ask poore A. B. in Turomill Street, what a sawcie Signior there is, whose purblind eies can scarcely discern a Wolfe from a Flea, and yet he hath such insight into the mysticall trade of Crosbyting, that he can furnish his boord with a hundred pounds worth of Plate: I doubt, the sand-eyde Ase will kicke like a Westerne Pugge, if I rubbe him on the gall; but tis no matter if he finde himselfe toucht and stirre, although he boasts of the chiefe of the Cleargies fauour, yet he so set his name out, that the Boyes at Smithfield barres shall chaffe him on the back for a Crosbite. Lath, you Men are foppes in fetching nouices ouer the coales: Harken to mee Stephen, he tell thee a wonder. There dwelt here sometimes a good ancient Patron, that had a fayre Wench to her Daughter, as young and tender as a mayrowe Masse Priestes Lemman; her he set out to sale in her youth, and drew on sundry to be suiters to her Daughter, some wooers, and some speeders; yet none married her, but of her Beauty they made profite, and murthered all, till they had spent vpon her what they had, and then forsooth, she and her young Wighon turnd them out of doores like prodigall Chldren: She was acquainted with Dutch, French, Italian, and Spaniard, as well as English, and at last, so often as the Pitcher goes to the Brooke, that it comes broken home, my fayre Daughter was hit on the masser veine, and gotten with child, and the Mother, to colour this matter, to saue her Daughters Marriage, begins to weare a Cushion vnder her owne Birtle, and to faime her selfe with child, but let her Daughter passe as though she ayld nothing: when the sortie weekes were come, and my young Wistris must needs cry out forsooth, this old B. had gotten huiwines miswerable vnto her selfe; & so brought her Daughter to Bed, and let her goe vp

and

with
d. with a
son.

True men come by their Goods.

and doth the house, and the old Croane lay in childbed as though she had been deliuered, and sayd, the Child was hers, and so saved her Daughters scape. Was not this a witty wonder, P. Stephen, wrought by an old Witch, to haue a Child in her age, and make a young Whore seeme an honest Virgin? Luch: this is little to the purpose, if I should recite all, how many she had cooyoned vnder the pretence of marriage: well poyze plaine Signior See, you were not little innough for her, although it cost you many Crownes, and the losse of your seruice. He say no more, perhaps she will amend her manners. Ah Stephen, how like you of this geare? in Crosbitching we put you downe; for God wot, it is little losht to in and about London; and yet I will say to thee, many a good Citizen is Crosbit in the yeare by good Whalers abroad.

Steph. I cannot deny, Kate, but you haue set dolefull strange Presidents of Womans preiudiciall wits; but yet though you be Crosbites, Fopps, and Pips, yet you are not good Lists: which is a great help to your Faculty, to fish a Boul of Watten, or Welnet.

Kate. Stay thee a word, I thought thou hadst spoken of I. P. C. his wife: Take heed, they be parlous folkes, and greatly acquainted with Beepers and Taplers, therefore meddle not you with them; for I heard say, the Belman hath sworne in despite of the Whill staffe, to tell such a foule Tale of him in his Second part, that it will cost him a dangerous Joynt.

Steph. Kate, Kate, let I. P. beware, for had not an ill Fortune salne to the Bel-man, hee could take little harme.

Kate. Who is that, Stephen, D.W?

Ste. Say, I will not name him.

Kate. Why then I pizithie what misfortune befell him?

St. Harry Kate, he was strangely wastt alate by a French Barber, and had all the haire of his face most miracolously shauen off by the Wyche of Gods vengeance, in so much that some sayd he had that he had not, but as hap was, how to be-

Theeues falling out,

when his haire fell off, it stood him in some stead when his bridle was alate: for if he had not cast off his beard, and so being unknown, it had cost him some knockes, but it fell out to the best.

Kate. The more hard fortune that he had such ill hap, but hasty iourneyes breed dangerous sweates, and the Physicians call it the Ale Peria, yet omitting al this, againe to where you left.

conditi-
of a Lift.

Steph. You haue almost brought me out of my matter, but I was talking about the Lift, commending what a good quality it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in Percers Shops, with Haberdashers of small-wares, Haberdashers of Hats and Caps, amongst Merchant-Tailors for Hose and Doublets, and in such places getting much gaine by Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad by Forging.

Kate. Suppose you are good at the lift: who be more cunning then we women, in that we are more trusted? for they little suspect vs, and wee haue as close conueyance as you men, though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of gownes, handbaskets, the crownes of our hats, our plachardes, and for a need, false bags vnder our smockes, wherein we may conuey more closely then you.

Steph. I know not where to touch you, you are so witty in your answers, and haue so many starting holes, but let me be pleasant with you a little: what say you to Pick-pocking or housestealing? I hope you neuer had experience in that faculty.

Kate. Alas simple sot, yes, and more thift to Runne the gallies then you.

ill tell you
ers of this
wench &
husband,
y blacke
re with
their
ce.

Steph. Why tis impossible.

Kate. In faith sir no, and for prooffe, I will put you vpon with a story of a mad, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who at Spillby faire had thre horse of her own, or another mans to sell: as she, her husband, and another good fellow, walked them by and downe the faire, the owner came and apprehended

hended them all, and clapt them in prison, the Taylor not keeping them close prisoners, but letting them lye all in a Chamber, by her wit she instructed them in a sozmall tale, that she saued all their liues thus: Being brought the next morrow after their apprehension, before the Iustices, they examined the men how they came by the horses, and they confess they met her with them, but where she had them, they knew not: then was my pretty peat brought in, who being a handsome Trull, blisht as if she had been full of grace; and being demanded where she had the horses: made this answer: May it please your worships, this man my husband, playing the vnthrist, as many moze haue done, was absent from me for a quarter of a yeere, which greeued me not a little, insomuch that desirous to see him, and hauing intelligence he would be at Spilsby Faire, I went thither euen for pure loue of him, on foot, and being within some ten miles off the towne, I waxed passing weary, and rested me often and grew very faint: at last there came riding by me a Seruingman in a blue coat, with thre horses ride at one anothers taile, which he led, as I gesse, to sell at the faire: the Seruingman seeing me so tired, tooke pittie on me, and asked me if I would ride on one of his empty horses, for his owne would not beare double: I thank him hartily, and at the next hill got vp, and rode till we came to a towne within thre miles of Spilsby, where the Seruingman alighted at a house, and bade me ride on afoze, and he would presently ouertake me. Well, sozward I rode halfe a mile, & looking behind me, could see no body: so being alone, my heart began to rise, and I to thinke on my husband: as I had rid a little further, looking downe alane, I saw two lusty men comming by, as if they were weary: & marking them earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made my heart as light as befoze it was sad: so staying for them, after a little vnkind greeting betwixt vs (for I thid him for his vnthristinesse) he asked me where I had the horses: and I told him how curiously the Seruingman had bled me: why

then saies he, stay for him: nay quoth I, lets ride on, and get you two upon the empty hoxses, for he will over take us ere we come at the towne. he rides on a stout lusty young gelding: so for ward we went, and lookt often behind us, but our Mer-vingman came not. At last we coming to Spillby, alighted and broke our fall, and tied our hoxses at the doore, that if he pass by, seeing them, he might call in; after we had broke our fall, thinking he had gone some other way, we went into the hoxsefaire, and there walkt our hoxses by and hoxse to meet with the Mervingman; not so; the intent to sell them. As to may it please your worship, whether he has stolne the hoxses from this honest man or no, I know not; but alas, haply I brought them to the hoxse faire, to let him that deliuered me them, haue them againe: for I hope your worships do thinke if I had stole the as it is suspected, I would neuer haue brought them into so publike a place to sell: yet if law be any way dangerous for the foolish deede, because I know not the Mervingman, it is I must bide the punishment, and as guiltlesse as any here: and so making a low curtsey, she ended. The Justice holding by his hand, and wondering at the womans wit that had cleared her husband and his friend, and lauched herself without compasse of the Law. Howlike you of this, Stephen? cannot we wenches pridge well?

Steph. I thinke, Kate, I shall be faine to giue you the bucklars.

Kate. Alas, good Stephen, thou art no Logician, thou canst not reason for thy selfe, nor hast no witty argument to braue me to an exigent: and therefore giue me leaue at large to reason for this supper, remember the subject of our disputation, is the positive question, whether Whores or Whores are most preiudiciall to the Common wealth. Alas, you poore therues do onely steale and purloine from men, and the harme you do, is to imboldish mens goods, and bring them to poverty: this is the onely end of all mens thievery, and the greatest preiudice that grows from robbing and litching: so much do we by our theft, and more by our lecher-

True men come by their Goods.

re: for what is the end of whoredom, but continuing of gods
and beggary: & besides: perpetuall infamy: like bring young
youthes to ruine and vtter destruction. I pray you, Stephen,
whether: haue a Merchants sonne, hauing wealthy parents,
better light vpon a Whore, then a Cut purse, the one only
taking his money, the other bringing him to vtter confus-
ion? For if the Fayst light vpon him, or the Conny catcher,
he loseth at the most some hundred pounds: but if he fall in-
to the compay of a Whore, she flatters him, she inuengles
him, she bewitcheth him, that he spareth neither goods nor
lands to content her, that is onely in loue with his coine: if
he be married, he forsakes his wife, leaues his children, de-
spiseth his friends, onely to satysfie his lust with the loue of a
base Whore, who when he hath spent all vpon her, and he
brought to beggary, beateeth him out like the Prodigall child:
and for a small reward, bringeth him, if to the fairest end, to
begge: if to the second, to the gallows: or at the last and
worst, to the pox, or as preturientall diseases. I pray you Ste-
phen when any of you come to your confession at Tyborne,
what is your last sermon that you make? That you were
brought to that wicked and shamefull end, by following of
Harlots: for to that end doe you steale to maintain whores,
and to content their badde humors. Oh Stephen! enter your
owne thoughts, and thinke what the faire woordes of a won-
ton will doe, what the smiles of a strumpet will vniue a man
to wit, into what leoparden man will thrust himselfe for her
that he loues, although for his sweet villany he be brought
to a loathsome leprosie.

Tush Stephen, they say the Poxe came from Naples,
some from Spaine, some from France: but wheresoother it
first grew, it is so surely notoriated in England, that by so.
Syth it may better be called A Morbus Anglicus; then Galli-
cus, and I hope you will grant all these French fauours
grow from Whores: besides, in my high louing, or rather
creeping, I meane to here men and women do rob together,
there whyles the woman is most bloudy: for she strangles

The end of
keeping a
whores co-
panie.

ingeth vnto death: and though the men would only satisfie themselves with the parties coine, yet shee endeth her theft in blood, murdering parties so deeply as she is malicious. I hope (gentle Stephen) you cannot contradict these reasons, they be so openly manifestly probable. For mine own part, I hope you do not imagine but I haue had some friends, besides poore George my husband: Alas, hee knowes it, and is content, like an honest simple Suffragan, to bee coyriall with a number of other good companions, and I haue many many a good man, I meane a man that hath a household, for the loue of me to goe home and beate his poore wife, when for recompence I mocke him for the money he spent, and he had nothing for his peace, but the wast belemings of others heauiy labours.

Stephen, if Concubines could inuagile Salomon, if Dalilah could betray Sampson, then wonder not if we (more nice in our wickednes then a thousand Dalilahs) can seduce poore yong Souices to their vtter destruction. Search the Gayles, there you shall heare complaints of Whores: Take into the Spittles, and Hospitals: there you shall see men diseased of the French Parties, giuing instruction to others that are sayd to beware of Whores: be an Auditor; or eare-witnesse at the death of any Thiefe, and his last testament is, Take heed of a Whore.

I dare scarce speake of Bride-well, because my shoulders tremble at the name of it, I haue so often deserved it: yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with their hands in their Pigeon-holes, cry: Oh! vpon Whores, when Fowler giues them the terrible lash. Examine Beggars that lye lame by the high way, and they say, they came to that miserie by Whores. Some third-hare Citizens, that from Merchants, and other good Trades, grow to be base Informers and knaights of the Post, cry out when they dine with Duke Humfrey: O what wickednes comes from Whores! Whentiles that runne from their masters, cry out vpon Whores. Tush Stephen, what enigmities proce

more

more in the Common wealth, then from whoresome. But
 sith it is almost supper-time, and mirth is the friend to dige-
 stion, I meane a little to be pleasant: I pray you how many
 bad profits againe growes from whores? Whye well
 would haue very fewe Tenants, the Hospitall would want
 Patients, the Surgeons much worke, the Apothecaries
 would haue surphaling water, and Potatoes for the deere
 on their hands, the Painters could not dispatch and make ad-
 way their beemillion, if tallow faces whores used lenier for
 their cheekes. What should I say more Stephen? The
 Subdiens should haue a great miste of vs, and whoresditch
 would complaine to some Anne a Cleare, if we of the siluer-
 dore should not uphold her tollity. What is that Stephen,
 comes in to heare our talke? Oh tis the boy, Kare, that lets
 vs suppe to night. Whye then Stephen, what say you to me
 haue not I proued that in solking & nipping we extell you,
 that there is none so great incommenies in the Common
 wealth, as growes from whores? First for the corrupting of
 youth, infecting of age, for breeding of hatred, to hatred of eu-
 ery another, inasmuch that the ruine of many men comes
 from vs, and the fall of many yowthes of good hope, if they
 were not seduced by vs, do proclaimeth vpon vs that wee
 be the murder of their misery: you men Theues touch the
 body, and wealth, but we ruine the soule, and in danger that
 which is more precious then the moyses treasure: you make
 moles only for the gallows, we, both for the gallows and
 the Duell, I and for the Surgeons too, that some time like
 lothsome Rapers, and die with the French Parbles. What
 upon I can lase that I haue won the supper.

Steph. I confesse it Kare, for thou hast told me such hor-
 rous villanies, as I thought neuer could haue been in wo-
 men, I meane of your profession: whye you are Crocodiles
 when you weep, Basilisks when you smile, Serpents when
 you deuise, and the diuels chiefe brokers to bring the soules
 to destruction. And so Kare lets sit downe to our meate and
 be merry.

True men come by their Goods.

The conuersion of an English Courtozan.

Sith to discouer my parentage, would double the griefe of
 Sorrow lining Parents, and renew in them the memory of
 great amisse, and that my vncleward fall, would be a disho-
 nour to the house from whence I came. With to manifest the
 place of my birth, would be a blemish (through my heauy
 life to badly mist) to the Shire wherre I was borne: With
 to discouer my name, might be holden a blot to my kindreds
 byre, to haue a stain in their stocke of so little grace, I will
 conceal my Parents, kin, and Countrey, and moreover my
 name with silence, lest enuie might taunt others for my
 wantonness. Know therefore, I was borne about three-
 score miles from London, of honest and wealthy Parents,
 who had many children, but I their only daughter, and ther-
 fore the best loved therein they most delighted, and more, the
 youngest of all, and therefore the more favoured: For being
 gotten in the long wing of my Parents age, they boted on me
 above the rest, and so set their hearts the more on me: I
 was the fairest of all, and yet not more beautiful then I was
 witty; in which, that being a pretty Parrot, I had such
 quaint conceits, and witty words in my mouth, that my
 neighbours said I was as wise a wife, to be long old. Whence
 to say either the Proverbs had bin authenticall, or these
 sayings Prophecies: then had I, by death in my noddle,
 buried many bladders, that my riper yeeres brought me for
 For the extreme love of my Parents, was the very efficient
 cause of my follies, resembling herein the nature of the Ape,
 that ever killeth that young one which he loueth most, with
 embracing it too feruently. So my father and mother, but
 the most of all, although he so much, so cockered me up in
 my wantonness, that my wit grew to the wood, and I car-
 ed but little with the ill words: What sooner I saw were it
 neuer so bad, might not be found fault withall, my Father
 would smile at it, and say, 'twas but the trick of a child,

A Harlot
 penance.

and my mother allowed of my unhappy parts, allowing to this prophane and old proverbe, An vtroward Gille makes a good woman.

But now I find, in sparing the rod, they hated the child, that over-kind fathers make unruly daughters. Had they bent the wand while it had been green, it would have been pliant; but I, ill growne in my yeeres, am almost remedlesse. The Hawke that is most perfect for the sight and will, seldom cometh to age, and children that are vertuously nurtured in youth, will be honestly nattered in age: as upon such as say; Young Saints, old diuels; it is (no doubt) a diuinitie and damnable saying; for what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Saddle. My selfe am an instance, who after I grew to bee five yeeres old, was sent to school, where I profited so much, that I writ and read excellently well, played upon the Virginals, Lute, and Citron; and could sing psalm-song at the first sight: insomuch, as by that time I was twelue yeeres old, I was holden for the most faire and best qualified young girl in all that Country; but with this, beuailen of my wel-wishers, in that my Parents suffered me to be so wanton.

But they so tenderly affected me, & were so blinded with my excellent qualities, that they had no insight into my ensuing follies. For I growing to be 13 yeere old, feeling the yoke of libertie to be loose on mine owne neck; began with the wanton Hepter, to gyne at mine owne will, and to measure content by the sweetnesse of mine owne thoughts, insomuch that pride creeping on, I began to vanity my selfe with the proudest, and to hold it in dishonour, that any in the Parish should exceed me in hauey. As my apparell was costly, so I grew to be licentious, and to delight to be looked on, so that I haunted and frequented all feasts & meetings; and other places of merry meetings, where as I was gazed on of many, so I spared no glances to survey all with a curious eye-favour, I observed Ouida quite right.

Spectatum venimus, venimus spectatum esse. alioquin

I went to see and be seen, and deckt my self in the highest degree of bravery, holding it a glory when I was waited on with many eyes, to make censure of my birth. Beside, I was an ordinary dancer, and grew in that quality so famous, that I was noted as the chiefest thereof in all the countrey, and to teach me by in these follies, my parents tooke a pride in my dancing, which afterward proved my overthrow, and their heart breaking.

Thus as an unbridled Colt, I carelessly led forth my youth, and wantonly spent the flowers of my yeares, holding such Maydens as were modest, fooles, and such as were not as wilfully wanton as my selfe, prying ill brought up, and without marriage. Growing on in yeeres (as time time tarryeth for no man) I began to turne passion proud, & a little better not worthy to live, that was with little in towne, and the plures young men began to follow me for my beauty, so I began to censure of some of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many women, being ready to fall from the tree before I was come to the perfection of a blossome, which an eagle of mine seeing, who was my mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare, as mine to me in time, finding fit opportunity to talke with mee, gave mee this wholesome exhortation.

A watch-word to wanton Maydens.

Come, I see the fairest Daye hath oftentimes the fiercest leathers; that the hottest day, hath the most sharpest thunders; the brightest sun, the most sadde shadowe, and the youngest Virgin, the most dangerous fortunes; I speake as a witness, and will be a friend, the blossome of a wantons youth (such as your selfe) hath attending upon it many scolds to nip it, and many crows to consume it, so that if it be not carefully looked upon, it will perishe before it come to any perfection.

A Virgins honour consisteth not only in the gifts of nature, as to be faire and beautiful, though they bee famous

that grace waidens much: for as they be glistering, so they
be momentary ready to be twayne with every winters blast,
and parched with every summers summer: there is no face so
faire, but the least spale, the tenderest scarre, the smallest
byme of schewesse, will quickly blench.

Beauty (Cousin) as it flourisheth in youth, so it fadeeth in
age, it is but a folly that sedeth mans eye, a painting that
Nature lends for a time, and men allow on for a while, inso-
much that such as onely aime at your faire looks, eye but
their loves to an Apperentship of beauty: which broken ei-
ther with cares, misfortune, or yeares, their vestments are at
liberty, and they begin to loath you, and like of others.

For she that is looked on by many, cannot chuse but be
hardly spoken of by some: for report hath a blister on her
tongue, and maidens actions are narrowly measured. Where-
fore would not the ancient Romans suffer their daughters
to goe any further, then their mothers looks guided them.
And therefore Diana is painted with a Coyne under her
eie, meaning, that a maide should not be a Draggler, but like
the snail, carry her house on her head, and keep it close at
her moyle, so to keepe her name without blench, and her
vertues from the flauer of time.

Cousin, I speake this generally, which if you apply par-
ticularly to your selfe, you shall find in time my words were
well sayd.

I gave him sencer thanks, but with such a scruple, that
he perceived how light I made of his counsaile: which hee
perceiving, shak't his head, and with teares in his eyes, de-
parted. But I, whom wanton desires had wonen in delighe,
still presumed in my former follies, and gave my selfe either
to god abroad, or else at home to read dissolute pamphlets,
which bred in mee many ill-affaired loves, so that I gave
leave to love and lust to enter into the center of my heart,
where they harboured, till they wrought my small and fatall
prejudice.

It was leading my life loosely, and being seduced by such
the

True men come by their Goods.

the applause of my son kinde and loving parents, I had many of enery degree that made him unto me, as well for my beauty; as for the hope of wealth that my father would bestow upon me: I sundry times I had, and all sorts of all; though I particularly granted none to none, yet doing them friendly favours, as being proud I had more lovers than any man; in the parish before. Amongst these there was a wealthy Farmer that lov'd me well; and of some forty yeeres of age, one that lov'd me for one of so little worth as myselfe, and him my father, mother, and other friends, would have had me marry my selfe to that; but I that had the reins of liberty too long in mine owne hands, refused him; and would not be ruled by their persuasions: And though my mother with teares intreated me to consider of mine owne estate, and how well I lived if I married with him, yet carelesly I despised her counsell, and stoutly made answer, that I would none of him: which though it pinches my Parents at the quicke, yet rather then they would displease me, they left me in mine owne liberty to live. Many there were besides him, men of some means worth, that were lovers unto me; but in vain, either my father or my friends would mate a league with me, for I refused them all, and with the Bible, refusing to light on the fittest wayes all day, reposed at night in a bed of sorrow.

It fortuned, that a man sought to win me, so among the rest, there was an old companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellow of small reputation, and of no living, neither had he any excellent qualities; but by standing on the Streets, but of pleasant disposition he was, and could gett out many quaint & ribaldious Jiggs & songs, and so was I favour'd of the folks so far for his dapper. This was my companion, suitable to my selfe in vanity, would all times be laughing with me; and so long passing with him, that I became weary, and let me know at this conference, that I had done with him, and so continued all his dayes, and I continued in mine owne liberty, and so I lived.

be concealed, so long will not be long smothered, but will be
 laying her owne secrets, which was manifest in me, who in
 my spending with him, so bewitched my affection, that he spy-
 ing I was on him, began to strike in the pson I was on,
 and to take opportunity by the forehand, and one day finding
 me in a merryaine, began to question with mee of love:
 which, although at the first, I tenderly denied him, yet at last
 I granted; so that not only I began to plight him my faith,
 but that night meeting to have further talke, I lasciviously
 confessed, that he except the flower of my Virginitie. When
 thus I was spoiled, by such a base companion, I gave my
 selfe to content his humor: and to satiate the sweet of mine
 atoms wanton desire. Oh here let me breathe, and with tears
 bewaile the beginning of my miseries, and to exclaim a-
 gainst the folly of my Parents, who by too much favouring
 me in my vanity in my tender youth, laid the first plot of my
 ensuing repentance: For they with one correction chas-
 tised my wantonnesse, and suppress my felicity with their
 grasse aduice, they had made mee more vertuous, and them-
 selves lesse sorrowfull. A fathers scorne is a whip to the child,
 and a mothers checke is a stay to the straggler. Oh had my
 Parents in ouer-loying me, mispated me, I had not at this time cause to complaine.

But leaving this digression, again to the lastness of mine
 alone life, who now hauing lost the glory of my youth, and
 suffered such a base name to possesse it, which many men of
 worth had desired to enjoy, I was bold to sinne, and grow
 shamelesse, inasmuch, he could not desire so much as I did
 grant him: whereupon, seeing he durst not reueale it to my
 father to demand me in marriage, he resolued to carry me a-
 way secretly, and therfore witht me in prauise for my selfe,
 and to furnish me every way both with money & apparel, ho-
 ping as he said, that after we were departed, and my father
 knew he was married, and that it neuer was to mend it,
 he would give his free consent, and bee his kinde, and deale
 with us as liberally, as if we had matcht with his good will.

I that

I that was apt to my ill, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter; that hee carried mee away into a strange place; and then calling me a child as his wife, when our money began to wax low, he resolved secretly to go into the Country where my father dwelt, to heare not only how my father took my departure, but what hope we had of his ensuing favour: although I was loth to bee left in a strange place; yet I was willing to heare from my friends, whom doubt contained much heart- sorrow for my unhappy fortunes: so that I parted with a few teares; and entreated him to make all the haste he might to returne. He being gone, as the Eagles alwaies resort where the carrion is, so the youth being spied abroad of my beauty, and that at such an Inne lay such a faire young Gentlewoman; there resorted thither many haue young Gentlemen, & cutting companions, that tickled with lust, aimed at the possession of my favour, and by sundry means sought to haue a sight of me, to which I easily granted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to be honoured at by many mens eyes: insomuch, that coming amongst them, I set their hearts more and more on fire, that there arose diuers haters who should bee most in my company. Being thus haunted by such a trape of lusty rascals, I began to find mine owne folly, that had placed my first affection to looke; and therefore began as wisely to loathe him that was departed, as earst I liked him when hee was present, wishing in my selfe, though he had the spoyle of my virginity, yet neuer after should he triumph in the possession of my favour: and therefore began I to affection those new come ghosts, and one aboue the rest, who was a young Gentleman, and no lesse addicted vnto me, then I devoted her to him: for daily hee courted mee with amorous Sonnets, and curious penne letters, and sent mee Jewels, and all that I might grate him with the name of my seruant: I returned him as loving lines at last, and so contented his lusty desires, that secretly and unknowne to all the rest, I made him suerly mine by bed-fellowship, to which I so

brighte him with sweet words, that the man began deeply
 to love upon me, in so much that selling some portion of land
 that he had, he put it into ready money, and provided horse
 and all things convenient, carried me secretly away, almost
 as farre as the Wathe. This was my second choice, and my
 second name: thus I went foroord in wretchednesse, and
 delighted in change, having left my old love, to looke after
 some other mate more fit for my purpose: but he took my
 departure when he returned, I little care: for now I had
 my content, a Gentleman, young, lusty, and furnished with
 good qualities, and one that loved me more tenderly then
 himselfe. Thus lived this new entertained friend & I toge-
 ther unmarried, yet as man and wife for a while, so loving-
 ly, as was to his content and my credit: but as the Wyger,
 though for a while she hide her claws, yet at last she will
 reveale her cruelty: and as the Agnus Castus laste when it
 looks most dry, is then most full of moisture, so Villaines
 when they are not qualified by their wairnes, nor both their
 cherynes for a yroneth inarrant their chastyty for ever, which
 I proved true: for my supposed husband being every day
 a man of worth, could not so covertly hide himselfe in the
 Country, though a stranger, but that he fell in acquaintance
 with many honorable Gentlemen, to whom he brought home to
 his lodging, not onely to honour them with his libell car-
 tise: but also to let me, being proud if any man of worth ap-
 plauded my beauty. Alas poor Gentleman, too much be-
 witcht by the silliness of a Villaine! how he admiring my
 beauty, so he in her hour for every new desire, by mine eyes a
 lute, to every face, he would not have beene so slow as to
 have brought his companions into my company, but rather
 would have met me up as a Pen, to have kept that se-
 cret to himselfe by force, which he could not retain by wis-
 domme: but the hound-minded Spanke, little suspecting my
 change, although I (God hat) placed my delight in nothing
 more then the desire of new choyce, which fell out thus.
 Amongst the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him compa-

True men come by their Goods.

my, there was one that was his most familiar, and his re-
 puter more trust and confidence in him then to all the rest:
 this Gentleman began to be deeply enamoured of me, and
 showed it by many signs, which I easily perceived; and I
 chose care to prevent to every sinister usage, and to see that
 labours of all that were beautiful, affected him no less: so that
 long prevailing about friendship, he broke the matter both
 me, and made me many times in vain, before he had at-
 tained his purpose: for he had told me his love, and I had not
 contented me. I will not confesse that any of the rest had
 some illuine favours, but this Gentleman was my beloved
 selfe, and I loved him more so; the time at the heart, then
 the other at the heart: so that though the other partly bore
 the charges, and was his pay for all, yet this was from him
 he that was master of my affections: which kinde of be-
 stow he was so bravely done, that in short time it was
 manifest to all our familiars, which made my suppers bur-
 den to sigh, and others to smile: but he that was hit with
 the boyme, was pincht at the heart; yet so extreme was the
 affection he bore to me, that he had rather conceale his griefe,
 then any way make me discontent, so that he smothered his
 sorrows with patience, and broke the silence with silence, till
 our loves grew so by one before, that it was a wonder to the
 world: whereupon one day at dinner, I being very pleasant
 with his chosen friend, and my choise lover, I know not
 how, but either by fortune, or it may bee, some secret
 there was by a Gentleman there present, a question put
 in about womens passions, and their continuall in affection,
 so that the controversie was betwixt, pro & contra, both
 arguments, whether a woman might have a second friend
 or no: at last it was concluded, that Love and Friendship
 by themselves could not stand, but therefore none so wise as to
 have a third. Whereupon arose a question about friends,
 that was put in such, that it was a high point of treatise
 to be handled by many, especially in law, in such a way
 that the Gentleman at the table protested by a solemn oath,
 that

that if any friend of his, made prize and favourer with the
 sight of his Mistress whom he loved, together with her
 wife, as he should secretly take to himselfe into his room,
 and offer him that dishonour to partake his love, he would
 not be any other revenge, but at the next grating stab him
 with his poine, though he were condemned to death for
 the action. All this fitted for the humour of my supposed hus-
 band, and stroke both me and my friend into a quantarise;
 but I scornfully looked at it, where as my husband, taking
 the bait before it came to the ground, began to make a long
 discourse, what faithlesse friends they were that would faile
 in love, especially, where a resolute trust of the party be-
 longed was committed unto them; and hereupon, to make the
 matter more credulous, and to quip my folly, and to taunt
 the baseness of his friends mind, that so he might with con-
 fesse both warn us of our wantonnesse, and reclaine us
 from it, he promised to tell a pleasant story, performed as he
 said, not long since in England, and it was to this effect.

A pleasant discourse how a wife wanton by her husbands
 gentle warning, became a modest Matron.

There was a Gentleman (to whom I will give the name of
 a Quire here in England, that was married to a young
 Gentle woman, faire and of a modest behaviour, her count-
 nance in her looks, howe ever she was in her thoughts, and one
 that every day with her pitifull remembrance, and with her
 remembrance of herselfe, did see her husbands content, in so
 much that the Gentleman so daily affected her, as he court-
 ed all those hours, all sweet which he had not along in her
 company, besetting to himselfe in the absence of his wife,
 that his onely care was to have her sweet and delight-
 ful time pleasantly together, hee did ever with his friend
 amongst the rest, in forme he is seen in affections, as hee was
 and all his secrets in his bosome, and what passion hee had in
 his mind, that either loved him, or repented him, hee re-
 vealed

And into his friends, and directed his actions according to the
 sequell of his counsels, so that they were his benefactors and his
 friends. This Gentleman, for all the injuries done out the time
 him by his faithfull friends, could not so withstand the force
 of fancy, but he grew enamoured of his friends wife whom
 hee courted with many sweet words, and faire promises,
 charmes: that are able to inchant almost the chastest eares,
 and so subtilly couched his arguments, discoloured such love
 in his eyes, and such sorrow in his looks, that despaire se-
 med to lie in his face, and swoye, that if she granted not him,
 the end of a lovers fights then would purchase his heart as a
 sacrifice to the sight of his damell mistress. The
 Gentlewoman hearing pitiful, as women are kindhearted,
 and are loth Gentlemen should die for love; after a sove-
 reigne, let him and her husband knight of the foxes order, and
 so to satiffie his humor, made forget of her own honor. Thus
 these two lovers continued for a great space in such plea-
 sure, as hitherto wantons count their felicity, having found
 thimselfe fit opportunity to exercise their tormented purposes.
 With the Gentleman himselfe did give himselfe libertie to
 love, neither suspecting his wife, nor his friend: at last, as
 such superfluous children will burst forth, it fell out, that a
 man who had been an old servant in the house, began to
 grow suspicious, that there was too much familiarity be-
 twixt her mistress, and her masters friend: and upon this
 watcht them divers times so narrowly, that at last he found
 them more private then either agreed with her masters ho-
 nor, or her own honesty: and therupon related it to his
 master. He, little credulous of the light behavall
 of his wife, blamed the maid, and bid her take heed, least she
 sought to blemish her vertues with slander: whom he loved
 more tenderly then his own life: the maid replied, that she
 spake not of any to him, but of some cleane hardhearted
 him, and the rather that he might knowe such a fault in
 time, and by some means prevent it: but it offered more
 note it as well as the his wifes good name, as this

should be only in question. At that time jumped upon him by the
 back a young as his maid, the Gentleman was a little taken,
 and listened to her discourse, wishing her to discover what she
 knew, as soon as possible to be fully of her misfortune, or by what
 means he might have assured you of it: she told him, that
 to her, her stone eyes were witnesses: for she saw them too
 lawfully together, and pleases it you Sir, quickly she, to take
 your leave to goe from home, and then in the backe-house to
 have you secret, I will let you see as much as I have mani-
 fested unto you. Upon this her master agreed, and warned
 his mayd not so much as to make it knowne to any of her
 fellowes. Within aday or two after, the Gentleman says he
 would goe a hunting, and so rise very early, and causing his
 men to couple by his hounds, left his wife a bed, and went a-
 broad: as soone as hee was gone a mile from his house, hee
 commanded his men to ride alope, and to hunt the hare, and
 followe the chase, and he himselfe came faire and softly after:
 they obeying their masters charge, went their wayes, and
 he returned by a backe way to his house, and so ent secretly
 to the place where his mayd might be appointed. In the
 meane time the mistress thinking her husband told truly his
 hounds, sent for her friend to her bed-chamber, by a trusty
 servant of hers, in whom shee assured he was a secret man-
 ner in such affaires: and the Gentleman was not slowe to
 come, but making all the hall he could, came and went into
 the chamber, asking for the master of the house very friend-
 ly: the old maide nothing all this, as soone as shee heard
 them together, went and cald her master, and carried him
 up by a secret paire of stairs to her mistresss chamber: where,
 passing in at a place that the maide before had made
 for the purpose, hee saw more than hee lookt for, and so much
 as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his
 wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a traytor: yet for all
 this, valuing his stone better more than his wife himselfe,
 thinking if he should make an honest, lowe word but alive
 at his stone discredit, and cause himselfe to be a laughing
 game

True men come by their Goods.

gave to his friends, he conveyed his treasure with silence,
and taking the same sport, charged her to keep all secret,
whatsomever she had found, even as the secret of her stone
life, say it she is to bring it to any, her husband would with
his sword make an end of her days; and with that, putting
his hand in his sword, gave the page wain to the Angels to buy
her a new gown: the French girl of this gift, made solemnly
to tread it under foot, and with it pleased him to concede, ne-
ver to consent it so long as she lived: upon this they parted,
she to her indignity, & he to the field to his men; where, after
he had told the story, he returned home, & finding his friend
in the garden, that in his absence had been grafting hedges in
the chimney, he entertained him with his wonted familiarity,
and showed him his countenance to his wife, but dis-
sembled all his thoughts to the full. As for the dinner that
was made, as he was gotten solitary by himself, he began to be
tormented of revenge, but not as every man would have done
how to have brought his wife to shame, & her Lord to retri-
bution, but he busied his brain how he might possess his wife
without violence, reclaim his wife, and keep his friends in
waiting a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at
last a haire fell into his head, how? and it was to compass the
thing: and therefore he went and got him certain slips, which
are counterfeit pieces of money, being dralls, and covered ou-
ner with silver, which the common people call slips: having
furnished himselfe with these, he put them in his purse and at
night went to bed as he was wont to do, yet not using the
kind of familiarity that he accustomed, notwithstanding he was
pained not from the loss of her being, but how to his wife as a
society, and every time he committed the sin with her, he
laid the next morning in the table, a slip, where he was
sure she might find it, and so many times as it pleased him
to be carnally pleasant with his wife, so many slips he still
laid down upon her cushion: This he did for the space of
a fortnight, till at last his wife finding every day a slip, or
sometimes more or less, began to be suspicious, and
examining

examining her waiting maids none of them could tell her a
 ny thing touching them: whereupon she thought to question
 with her husband about it, but being out of remembrance,
 the next morning as she lay wallyng in bed, it came into her
 minde; and she asked her husband if he laid those slips on her
 cushionet, that she of late found there, hauing neuer seene a
 ny before: I marry did I, quoth he, and have laid them there
 vpon speciall reason, and it is this: Ever since I haue beene
 married to thee, I haue deemed thee honest, and therfore vnder
 and honoured thee as my wife, parting euequall fauours be-
 twixt vs as true louers: but alate finding the contrary, and
 with these eyes seeing thee play the whoze with my friend,
 in whom I did repose all my trust, I sought not, as many
 would haue done, to haue reuenged in blood, but for the sa-
 fety of mine owne honoz, which otherwisse would haue been
 blemished by thy dishonelly, I haue been silent, and haue
 neither wronged my quondam friend, nor abused thee, but
 still doe hold bed with thee: the world shall not suspect any
 thing, and to quench the desire of lust I vse thy body, but
 not so louingly as I would a wife, but carelessly as I would
 vse the body of a false Harlot or Trumpet, and therfore
 euen as to a whoze, so I giue thee hire, which is for euery
 thus a slip, a counterfeit coine, which is good enough for a
 slippery wanton, that will wrong her husband that loued her
 so tenderly, and thus will I vse thee for the safety of mine
 owne honoz, till I haue assured proofe that thou becomest ho-
 nest, and thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart ready to
 burst with sighes, he was silent: when his wife stricken with
 remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bed in her smocke,
 humbly confessing all, craved pardon, promising if he should
 pardon this offence which was new begun in her, she would
 become a new reformed woman, and neuer after (so much as
 in thought) giue him any occasion of suspicion or ioustelle:
 the patient husband not willing to bigo his wife, forgave her
 at her word, and told her that when hee found her so reclar-
 ned, he would as afore he had done, vse her louingly and as
 his

his wife, but till hee was so perswaded of her honesty; hee would pay her all slips for his pleasure, charging her not to reueale anything to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that he was priuy to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I gesse, in some kind grating; and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leaving his wife in bed full of sorrow, and almost renting her heart asunder with sighes. As soon as he walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house, and asked for the Good man; the Pandor that was priuy to all their practices, said, that his master was gone abroad to see his pastures, but his mistresse was in bed; why then, sayes he, I will go and raise her vp; so coming into the chamber, and kissing her, meaning (as he was wont) to haue bled his accustomed gallance, she desired him to abstaine, with broken sighes, and her eyes full of teares: hee wondering what should make her thus discontent, asking her what was the cause of her sorrow, protesting with a solemn oath, that if any had done her injury, hee would reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life. Shee then told him, (scarcely being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a suite to moue him in, which if he granted vnto her, shee would hold him to loue & affection without change, next her husband for euer: he promised to do whatsoeuer it were within sales for, shee vpon a Bible you shall see it without exception: with that he took a Bible that lay in the window, and swore, that whatsoeuer she requested him to do, were it to the losse of his life, he would, without exception performe it. Then she holding before her head and blushing, began thus: I need not, quoth shee, make manifest, how grossly and grievously you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest gentleman my husband, and your friend; hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, and assuring such earnest assurance in your vnsaind friendship, that hee euen committed me his wife, his loue, his second life, into your bosome: this loue now I requited with inconstancy, in playing the harlot: that faith that he reposed in you, haue you returned with treachery

and fallow, in abusing mine honesty and his honour. Now
a remnant of conscience toucheth me for my sin, that I heart-
ily repent, and vow ever hereafter to this day to my hus-
band: and therefore my fate is to you, that from henceforth
you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question
into me, nor take any unhallowfull pleasure in conversing at
my hand: this is my fate, and because I have loved you,
which I wish if you observe as a faithfull Gentleman, I will
contently from my husband what is paid, and rest in honest
loye your faithfull friend for ever; at this, she burst forth in-
to teares, and uttered such sighes, that he thought for very
griefe her heart would have clavis asunder. The gentleman
astonied at this strange Spectaculo: hee of his spirits, late
as god while in a maze, and at mistaking her by the hand,
made this reply: So God helpe mee, faire sweetest, I am
glad of this motion, & wondrous full that God hath put
such honest thoughts into your minde, and hath made you the
meanes to reclaim me from my folly: I feele no less re-
morse, then you doe in touching to honest a friend as your
husband, but this is the frailtiness of man: and therefore to
make amends, I protestation, never hereafter so much as
in thought, to motion you of dishonesty, onely I craue you
be silent: the promise that, and so they ended, and so that
time they parted. At one the Gentleman came home, and
cheerfully saluted his wife, and asked if dinner were ready,
and sent for his friend to bring him tooverally familiarly, gi-
ving him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they pass
away the day together. At night when his wife and he went
to bed, she told him all, what had passed betwene her and his
friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that he
had thereby of himselfe twice as much, being heartily sorie
that he had so deeply offended to him a friend. The Gentle-
man comforted her well, and sought her after many a reason-
able woman, she thurst to know if that the name gave him
any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wife Gentleman retri-
buted, with silence a woman's wife, and remained an assured
friend.

At this pleasant tale all the boord was at a dwelling, and they sayd, the Gentleman was passing wisely that he sought so cunningly for the safety of his own honour, but exclaiming against such a friend, as would to his friend offer such killing, al commending her that would be false to so loving a husband. Whom they did sincerely desant and pass along between, but this tale wrought little effect in me: for as one pass once, I delighted in change; but the gentleman that was his familiar, and my Paramour, was so touched, that never after he would touch me dishonourly, but reclaimed himself, ab stained from me, and became true to his friend. I wondering, that according to his wonted custome, he did not take my company: he and I being one day in the chamber alone, and he in his dumps, I began to dally with him, and to aske him why he took so strange, and used not his accustomed saucys to me: he solemnly made answer, that though he had played the fool in setting his saucy upon another mans wife, and in loving his friend, yet his conscience was not touched with remorse; and ever since he heard the tale above rehearsed, he had boomed in himselfe never to see my husband the like againe. My husband, quoth I, he is none of yours he hath brought me here from my friends, and keeps me here unmarried, and therefore am I as free for you as for him: and thus began to grow clamorous, because I took reborn of my last. The gentleman seeing me shamelesse, and sic me to be silent, and said; although you be but his friend, yet he holds you as deare as his wife, and therefore I will not abuse him, neither would I with you to be familiar with any other; desiring you have a friend that loves you so tenderly: much you can tell he gave me, but all in vain, for I scorned it, and hee since hate him, and resolved both to be rid of him, and my supposed husband: so talking in another familiar to my husband, I so mingled him with slender words, that I caused him to make a piece of money to send me away, and to carry me to London, where I had not lived long with him, but he taking my light behaviour, left me to the wife, which to shift for my selfe.

I now being brought to London, and left here at random, was not such a house where whither any strange stratch with me; but that I had visited some houses in London, that could harbour as honest a woman as my selfe; when as therefore I was left to my selfe, I reioyned my lodging, and gave me into one of those houses of good hospitalitie, whereunto persons resort, commonly called a Drugging-house, or, to bee plaine, a Whore-house, where I gave my selfe to entertain all companions, sitting or standing at the doore like a Kiale; to allure or draw in wanton passengers, refusing none that would with his purse purchase me to be his: to satisfie the insatiate desire of his filthy lust: now I began not to respect personage, good qualities, or the gracious favour of the man, when eye had no respect of person: for the oldest Lecher was as welcome as the youngest Lover, so he brought meate in his mouth. Thus to the griefe of my friends; hazard of my soule; and consuming of my body, I spent a yere or two, in this base or bad kinde of life, subiect to the whipple of every desperate Ruffian, till one time there resorted to our house a Clothier, a proper young man, who by long time continuing first to drinke, stopping me, asked me if I would drinke with him: there needed no great entreaty, for as then I wanted company, and so clapt me downe by him, we began very pleasantly to welcome him: the man being of himselfe modest and honest; noting my personage, and inwardly reasoned of my strange, like behaviour; and inwardly (as after he reported to some) grieved that so foule properties were hidden in so good a proportion, and that such rare wit & excellent beauty was blemished with whoresomes base deformitie, in so much that he began to thinke loel of me, and to wish that I were as honest as I was beautiful. Again, see how God wrought for my conversion: since I gave my selfe to my base kinde of life, I never liked any so well as him; like much that I began to judge of every part, and me thought he was the properest man that ever I saw, thus wee sate both innocuous of other, blasphe-

and he honestly : at last he questioned with me what
 country woman I was, and in by being so proper a woman
 I would become to dwell as I was in a base Ale-house, espe-
 cially in one that had a bad name: I warrant you I wanted no
 brautiful reply to sit him, for I told him the house was as
 honest as his mothers, may it there were in it a good wench
 or two, that would pleasure their friends at a need, I ghesse
 by his nose what porridge he loved, and that he hated none
 such: well, leaving me in that voice he said little, but shook
 his head, payd for the beere and went his way, only taking
 his leave of mee with a kisse, which mee thought was the
 sincerest that ever was given mee, as soone as he was gone,
 I began to think what a handsom man he was, & wish that
 he would come and take a nights lodging with me, sitting in
 a dunspe to think of the quaintnesse of his personage, till
 other companions came in, that shook mee out of that
 melancholly, but as soone againe as I was secret to my
 selfe, hee came into my remembrance, passing over thus
 a day or two this Clothier came againe to the house,
 whose sight cheered mee up, for that spying him out at a
 Casement, I came downe the staires and met him at the
 doore and heartily welcomed him, and asked him if he would
 drink, I came for that purpose, saies he, but I will drink no
 more belesse but in a Chamber, marry sir, ay, I, you shall and
 so brought him into the fairest room, in our sitting there
 together drinking, at last the Clothier fell to kissing rather
 balliance, where in he found me not coy, at last told mee that
 he would willingly have his pleasure of mee, but the room
 was too lightsom for of al things in the world he could not in
 such actions along with a light Chamber: I consented unto
 him, and brought him into a room more dark: but still he said
 it was too light, then I carried him into a further chamber,
 where drawing a Curtaine before the window, and closing
 the curtaine of the bed, I asked him, smiling, if that were
 close enough: He swot low, saies he, I certain is not hard
 enough for the window, some watching eye may see by
 my

my heart misgouhts, and my crime is my life: Now, if thou
 had a closer rume then this, toing me to it: why then, quoth
 I follow me, and with that I brought him into a backe lust,
 where stood a little bed, onely appointed to lodge suspicious
 persons, so darke, that at none daies it was impossible for a
 my man to see his owne hands: how now sir, quoth I, is not
 this darke enough? He sitting him downe on the bed side,
 fetcht a depe sigh, and sayd, indifferent, so, so; but there is a
 glimpse of light in at the tiles, some body may by sojourn see
 he: in faith no, qud I, none but God: God, sayes he! why,
 can God see us here? God sir, quoth I, why I hope you are
 not so simple, but you know, Gods eyes are cleare & pe-
 netrating that they can pierce through walls of yaller. And
 alas, qud he, sweet loue, if God see us, shall we not be moze
 ashamed to do such a filthie act before Him, then before men?
 I am sure thou art not so shamelesse but thou wouldest blush
 to haue the meanest commiser in London see thee in the ac-
 tion of the filthie lust, and dost thou not shame moze to haue
 God, the Maker of all things, see thee, who reuengeth crime
 with death; he whose eyes are clearer then the sun, who is
 the searcher of the hart, and holveth beinges in his hands
 to punish sinners. Oh let us tremble that we but once durst
 haue such wilful communication in the hearing of his di-
 uine Majesty, who pronounceth damnation for such as giue
 themselves ouer to adultery. It is not possible, saith the Lord
 for any whoremaster, or lasciuious woman, to enter into the
 Kingdome of God, for such this whole Citie haue summe,
 kingdomes haue bin destroyed, and though God suffer such
 wicked liuers to escape for a while, yet at length they payeth
 home, to this world with beggerie, famine, diseases, infamy;
 and in the other life, perpetuall damnation: weigh but the
 inconuenience that growes through the base life, thou art
 hater of all that see god, despiser of the seruants, and only
 wel thought of, of Reprobates, Rascals, Whorers, and such
 as the world hates, subiect to their lust, and gaining thy li-
 uing at the hands of euery diseased leacher. What a misfe-
 rable

True men come by their Goods.

table trade of life is thine, that liueth of the vomit of sin, in hunting after moladies: but suppose, while thou art young, thou art sauozed of thy companions, when thou wast old, and that thy beauty is faded, then thou shalt be loathed and despised, euen of them that profess most loue vnto thee: then god siffer call to minde the basenesse of thy life, the hainous outrage of thy sin, that God both punish it with the rigour of his iustice. Oh thou art made beautifull, faire, and well formed; and wilt thou then by thy filthy lust make thy body, which if thou be honest, is the Temple of God, the habitation of the diuine? Consider this, and call to God for mercy, and amend thy life; leave this house, and I will become thy faithfull friend in all honesty, and ble thee as mine owne sister. At this, such a remoyse of conscience, such a fearefull terror of my sin strack into my mind, that I kneeled down at his feet, and with teares besought him that he would helpe me out of that misery, for his exhortation had raised in me a loathing of my wicked life, and I would not only become a reformed woman, but hold him as deare as my father that gaue me life, whereupon he kiss me with teares, and so we went downe together, where we had further communication, and presently he provided me an other lodging, where I not only vsed my selfe so honestly, but also was so penitent euery day in teares for my former folly, that he tooke me to his wife, and how I haue liued since and loathed filthy lust, I referre my selfe to the Paternity of God, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts.

Thus Country-men I haue publisht the conuersion of an English Courtezan, which if any way it be profitable, either to forwarne youth, or withdraw bad persons to goodnesse, I haue the whole end of my desire; only craving euery father would bring vp his children with carefull nurture, and euery young woman respect the honour of her Virginitie.

FINIS





TO ALL GENTLMEN,
Merchants, Apprentises, and
Countrie-farmers, health.

Newes, and green bushes at Tauerns
new set vp; every man hath his
Penny to spend at a Pint in the
one, and every man his care open,
to receiue the sound of the other.
It is the language which at first
meetings is used in all Countries,
what Newes? In Court, tis the Mornings Salutations;
and Noones table-talk; by Night it is stale. In Citie
tis more common, then *what doe you lacke?* And in
the Countrie, Whistling at Plough is not of greater
Antiquitie. VValk the middle Ile in *Pauls*, and
Gentlemens teeth walke not faster at Ordinaries, then
there a whole day together, about inquiry after *Newes*.
Newes then, being a Fish that's caught every day, and
yet a Meate for every mans Table; I thinke it not a-
miss to inuite all men to a Feast of such *Newes*, as
haue of late come in shoales into my Net. I will not
hold a Bird in a Cage to sing strange notes to my selfe,
but let her forth to delight others: And albeit (about
some two or three yeeres past) the ugly faces of diuers

THE EPISTLE.

damnd abuses, were set naked vpon euerie Post, their Vizards being flaid off, both by *Lanthorne and Candle-light*, and by the *Belman of London*: Yet Villanie when it runnes to seed, being of all other graines the most fruitfull and luxuriant, the Candle-light was burnt to a snuffe, and the *Belman* fast asleepe, before these Monsters which now are hatcht forth, creeped out of their Dennes.

In *Westminster*, the *Strand*, *Holborne*, and the chiefe places of resorts about *London*, doe they euerie day build their nests, euery howre flidge, and in Tearme time especially flutter they abroad in flockes: You shall know them by their feathers. And because for the most part, they flye in payres, (a Cocke and a Henne together) Behold a couple newly alighted on the *Pearch*; a *Hee-Foyst*, and a *Shee-Foyst*: What they chirrup out, their owne Voyces can best deliuer; and therefore listen to them. Suppose you heare the first of them setting forth a throte thus.

Farewell,

R. G.

A DIS

410. C. 111

A DISPUTATION

Between a Hee-Foyst, and a Shee-Foyst,
Stephen and Kate.

Stephen.



Kate Kate, well met, what Newes about your Westminster building, that you looke so blith, your cherry Cheekes discover your good fare; and your bzaue apparell bewrayes a fat purse: Is Foxtons note alate growne so favourable to Foystes, that your Husband hath lighted on some large purchase? or haue your smooth lokes linkt in some young Douce, to sweate for a favour, all the Wyte in his Bounge, and to leane himselfe as many Crownes as thou hast good conditions, and then he shall be one of Pierce-Penileffe fraternitie? Who is it swete Trench, goes the woyle on tobales, that you tread so daintily on your tye-toes?

Kate, willy Stephen, are you pleasant or penish, that you trispe with such bylase girdes? thinke you a quarters winds cannot make a quick sayle, that easie list cannot make he any burthens? that women haue not tolles to compasser crownes as well as men: yes, and moze, for though they bee not so strong in the fist, they bee made tye in their wits: and tis by wits that I liue and will liue, in despite of that widd Scholler, that thought with his conny-catching wiles to haue crof-bit our Trade. Doeest thou maruell to see

Theeues falling out,

come thus brisk? faire Wenches cannot want fauours, while the world is so full of amorous fooles: where can such Girls as my selfe bee blemisht with a thred-bare coat, as long as Country Farmers haue full Purks, and wanton Citizens pockets full of pence?

Steph. Truth, if fortune so fauour thy Husband, that hee be neither smoakt nor cloyed: for I am sure all thy brauery comes by Pipping, Foyling, and Lissing.

Simple country
Yeomen
are counted
barlots tenants

Kate. In faith sir no: did I get no more by mine owne wit, then I reape by his purchase, I might both goe bare and penniless the whole yeere, but mine eyes are stables, and my hands lime-twigges (else were I not worthy the name of a Shee-Conny-catcher) Cyrces had neuer more Charmes, Calipso more Inchantments, the Syrens more subtile tunes, then I haue crafty sights to inuegle a Conny, and fetch in a Country Farmer. Stephen, beloue mee, you men are but soles, your gettings are vnertaine, and yet you still fish for the Gallies: though by some great chance you light vpon a good bounge, yet you fast a great while after, whereas we mad Wenches haue our Seruants (for so I call euery simple Letcher and amorous For) as well out of Tearme as in Tearme: to bring vs our Rents: alas, were not my wits, and my wanton pranks more profitable then my husbands foyling, we might often goe to bed supperlesse for want of surfeting: and yet I dare sweare, my husband gets a hundred pounds a yeere by bounge.

Steph. Why Kate, are you growne so stiffe, to thinke, that your faire lookes can get as much as our nimble fingers: or that your sacking can gaine as much as our foyling? no, no, Kate, you are two Bowes downe the winde: our sex will get more then twenty the proudest Wenches in all London.

Kate. A little further, and giue mee some come: what Stephen, your tongue is too lauish, all stands vpon proof: and sith I haue leisure, and you no great business, as being now when Pauls is shut vp, and all purchases and Con-

nyes

True men come by their goods.

nies in their Barrowes, let vs to the Tauerne, and take a room to our selues, and there for the price of our Suppers, I will pzooue that women (I meane of our faculty, traffick, or as base knaues tearme vs, Strumpets) are moze subtil, moze dangerous in the common wealth, and moze full of wiles to get crownes, then the cunningest Foyt, Pip, List Drigs, or whatsoeuer that liues at this day.

Steph. Content, but who shall be moderater in our controversies, sith in disputing pro & contra, betwixt our selues, it is but your yea, and my nay, and so neither of vs will yield to others victories?

Kate, Trust me Steph. I am so assured of the conquest, offering soin the strength of mine owne arguments, that when I haue reasoned, I will referre it to your iudgement and censure.

Steph. And trust me, as I am an honest man, I will bee indifferent.

Kate. O sweare not so deeply: but let me first heare what you can say for your selfe?

Steph. What? why moze Kate, then can bee painted out in a great volume; but briefly this: I needs not describe the lawes of villainy, because the Bel-man hath so amply pend them downe in the first part of Conny-catching, that though I be one of the faculty, yet I cannot discover moze then hee hath laid open:

Wherfore, first to the Gentleman Foyt, I pray you what finer quality? what art is moze excellent, either to try the ripenesse of the wit, or the agility of the hand, then that for him that will be master of his trade, must passe the profoundest Juggler alive, the points of Leger de maine he must haue an eye to spee the Bouncing or Durtle, and then a heart to dare to attempt it: for this by the way, hee that feares the gallies, shall neuer bee good Thiefe while hee liues, hee must as the Cat watch for a House, and walke Paules, Westminster, the Exchange, and such common haunted places, and there haue a curious eye to the person, whether hee bee Gentleman,

cutpurse in
their colours

Theeves falling out,

man, Citizen or Farmer, and note, either where his Young lies, whether in his Hole, or Pockets, and then dog the party into a pzeffe, where his Maule with hearing and shoning shall so molest him, that he shall not slee when we strip him of his Young, although it bee neuer so fast or cunningly conched about him: what poze Farmer almost can come to please his case at the Barre, to attend vpon his Lawyers at the Bench, but loke he neuer so narrowly to it, we haue his Purse, wherein sometime there is sat purchase, twenty or thirty pounds; and I pray you, how long would one of your Traffickes be earning so much with your Chamber wozker Besides, in Faices and Markets, and in the Circuits after Judges, what infinite mony is gotten from honest meaning men, that epyther bustle about their necessary affaires, or carelesly looking to their crowns, light amongst vs that be ffolke such we dissemble in show, we goe so neate in apparell, so or-derly in outward appearance, some like Lawyers Clarkes, others like Heruling-men, that attended there about their Masters businesse, that we are hardly shonakt: verking vpon all men with kind courtesies and faire woordes, and yet being so warily watchfull, that a good Purse cannot be put by in a Faire, but wee sigh if we share it not amongst vs: and though the Bookes of Conny-catching hath somewhat hindered vs, and brought many braue ffolks to the Waller, yet some of our Country Farmers, nay of our Gentlemen and Citizens, are so carelesse in a throng of people, that they shew vs the Prye, and so draw on a thiefe, and bequeath vs their Purse whether we will or no: for who loues wine so ill, that he will not rate Grapes if they fall into his mouth? and wh is so base, that if he see a Pocket saire befoze him, will not forst in if he may, or if forsting will not serue, vs his knife and nip, for although there be some ffolks, that will not vse their knives, yet I hold him not a perfect workman or master of his mistery, that will not cut a Purse as well as forst a Pocket, and hazard any tyme for so swete againe as gold: how answere you mee this bylese obiection Kate?

Two shapcs

True men come by their goods.

can you compare with either our cunning to get our gains in purchase?

Kate. And have you no stronger arguments, good man Stephen, to argue your excellency in villainy but this? then in faith put up your pipes, and give me leave to speake: your chop-logicks hath no great subtilty: for simply you reason of forgering, and appropriate that to your selves, to you men I meane, as though there were not women forgers & pips as neate in that trade as you, of as good an eye, as fine and nimble a hand, and of as resolute a heart: yes Stephen, and your good mistresses in that misery; for wee without like suspicion can passe in your walks under the colour of simplicity to Westminster, with a paper in our hand, as if wee were distressed women, that had some supplication to put up to the Judges, or some bill of information to deliver to our Lawyers, when surely we shuffle in for a Bounge as well as the best of you all, yes, as your selfe Stephen, though you bee called King of Cutpurses; for though they smeeke you, they will hardly mistrust us, and suppose our stomach stand against it to forger, yet who can better play the staulc or the shadow then we, for in a thrust or throng if wee shoue hard, who is he that will not favour a woman, and in giving place to us, give you free passage for his Purse. Again, in the Market, when every wife hath almost her hand on her bunn, and that they cry, beware the Cutpurses and Conny-catchers, then I as fast as the best with my Hand-Basket, as mannerly, as if I were to buy great store of Butter and Eggs for provision of my house, doe exclaime against them with my hand on my Purse, and say, the world is so bad, when a woman cannot walke safely to Market; for feare of these villanous Cutpurses, when as the first Bounge I come to, I either nip or forger, or else staulc another, while he hath stricken, dispatcht and gone.

Now, I pray you, gentle sir, wherein are wee inferior to you in forgering? and yet this is nothing to the purpose. For it is one of our most-simple shifts: but yet, I pray you, what

The Shee-Di-
uell worst:

Women seiftes
& Boies, most
dangerous in
Faires and
Markets.

True men come by their goods.

A Trull with
a Gull.

Tricks of
Bawdes.

thinks you when a Farmer, Gentleman, or Citizen, come to the Bearne, perhaps he is wary of his Purse, and watch him neuer so warily, yet hee will neuer bee brought to the blow, is it not possible for vs to pinch him ere hee passe? Hee that is most chary of his crownes abash, and will cry, Woe the Conny-catchers, will not bee afraid to drinke a pint of wine with a pretty Wench, and perhaps go to a frugging house to ferry one out for his purpose, then with what running we can save the simple Fopp, with what faire words, sweete kisses, fained sighs, as if at that instant we fell in loue with him that we neuer saw before: If we meet him in the Evening in the strate, if the Farmer, or other whatsoeuer, be not so forward as to motion some courtesie to vs, we straight insinuate into his company, and claime acquaintance of him by some meanes or other, and if his mind be set for lust, and the Duell drine him on to match himselfe with some dishonest wanton, then let him looke to his Purse; for if he do but kisse me in the strait, He haue his Purse for a farewell, although hee neuer commit any other act at all. I speake not this onely by my selfe Stephen, for there be a hundred in London more cunning then my selfe in Conny-catching. But if hee come into a house, then let our trade alone to vexe vpon him, for first we saue our selues hungary, for the benefite of the house, although our bellies were neuer so full, and no doubt the Warden or Waiter, thee comes forth like a sober Patron, and sets store of Cates on the Table, and then I call a word on them, and though I can eate little, yet I make hauck of all, and let him bee sure euery dish is well sanced, for he shall pay for a Dippin pie that cost in the Market foure pence, at one of the Drugging houses, eight pence: tush, what is dainty if it be not deare bought: & yet hee must come off for crownes besides: and when I see him draine to his Purse, I note the putting vp of it well, and ere we part, the world goes hard if I saye him not of all that he hath: and then suppose the worst that he might, am I so simply acquainted, or badly provided, that I haue not a friend,

Theeves falling out,

friend, which with a few terrible Oathes and countenance set, as if hee were the proudest Roubada, that euer bare armes in the Low country warres, will face him quite out of his money, and make him walke like a ~~W~~ Woodcocke home, ward by waeping Crosse, and so buy repentance with all the crowne in his Purse. How say you to this Stephen, whether are women Forts inferiour to you in ordinary chymage or no?

Steph. Excellently well reasoned, thou hast told me wonders: but wench, though you be wily and strike often, your blowes are not so big as ours.

Kate. Oh but note the subject of our disputation, and that is this, which are more subtil and dangerous in the Common wealth, and to that I argue.

Steph. I and besprowe mr, but you reason quaintly; yet will I proue your wits are not so ripe as ones, nor so ready to catch into the subtilties of kinde chymage; and though you appropriate to your selfe the excellency of Conny-catching, and that you doe it with more Art then we mendoe, because of your painted flatteries and sugred words, that you flourish cethopically, like nets to catch soales, yet will I manifest with a merry instance, a feat done by a Foyst, that exceeded any that euer was done by any mad Villench in England.

A pleasant Tale of a Country Farmer, that tooke it in scorn to haue his Purse cut or drawne from him, and how a Foyst serued him,

IT was told me of a truth, that not long since here in London, there lay a country Farmer, with diuers of his neighbours about law matters, amongst whom, one of them going to Wellminsterhall, was by a Foyst stript of all the pence in his purse, and comming home, made great complaint of his misfortune, some lamented his losse, and others exaimed against the Cutpurues, but this Farmer

Theeves falling out,

hee laught loudly at the matter, and said, such fooles as could not keepe their Purles no surer, were well served; and so; my part, quoth hee. I so much scorne the Cutpurses, that I would thanke him heartily that would take paines to Foyst mine: well sages his neighbour, then you may thanke me, with my harmes learne you. so beware, but if it be true, that many things fall out betweene the cup and the lip, you know not what hands Fortune may light in your owne lap; tush, quoth the Farmer, heers forty pounds in this Purle in gold, the proudest Cutpurse in England win it and weare it; thus hee boasted. There stood a subtil Foyst by, and heard all; smiling to himselfe at the folly of the proud Farmer, and bowed to haue his Purle, or venture his neck for it, and so went home, and bewaged it to a crew of his companions, who tooke it in Dudgeon, that they should be put downe by a Deasant: but wheresoener they met, they held a consultation, and both consulted, and concluded all by a generall consent, to bend all their wits to bee possessers of this Farmers Bountie; and for the execution of this their vote, they haunted about the Inns where he lay, and dogged him into diuers places; both to Westminster hall, and other places, and yet could neuer light vpon it, he was so watchfull and smackt them so narrowly, that all their trauell was in vaine: at last, one of them fled to a more cunning policie, and went and learned the mans name and where hee dwelt, and then he hyed him to the Counter and entred an action against him of trespass; damages two hundred pounds: when he had thus done, he sed two Sericants, and carried them downe with him to the mans lodging, wishing them not to arrest him till he commanded them, well agreed they were, and downe to the Farmers lodging they came, where were a crew of Foysts, whom he had made priuie to the end of his practise, stood waiting, but he tooke no knowledge at all of them, but walked by and down: the Farmer came out and went to Paules, the Cutpurse bad stay, and would not yet suffer the Officers to meddle with him, till hee came in-
to

A prety shift.

True men come by their goods.

to the West end of Pauls Church-yard, and there he willed them to doe their Office, and they stepping to the Farmer arrested him, the Farmer amazed, being amongst his neighbours, asked the Sherient at whose suite he was troublede: At whose suite soeuer it be (said one of the Cutpurses that stood by) you are wongdo honest man, soz he hath ar rested you here in a place of priuiledge, where the Sheriffes nor Officers haue nothing to doe with you? and therefore, you are vntwise if you obey him: tush, sayes another Cutpurse, though the man were so simple of himselfe, yet shall he not offer the Church so much wong, as by yielding to the Place, to imboldish Pauls libertie, and therefore I will take his part, and with that he drew his sword, an other toke the man and haled him away, the Officer he stucke hard to him and sayd he was his true prisoner, and cryed Clubbes: the Wrentises arose, and there was a great hurly burly, soz they took the Officers part, so that the poore Farmer was mightily turmoyle amongst them, and almost haled in pices: whilst thus the strife was, one of the Foyss had taken his purse away, and was gone, and the Officer carried the man away to a Tauerne, soz he swoze he knew no such man, nor any man that he was indebted to: as then they sate drincking of a quart of wine, the Foyss that had caused him to be arrested, sent a note by a Porter to the Officer that he should release the Farmer, soz he had mistaken the man: which note the Officers shewed him, and bad him pay his fees and goe his wages: the poore Countrey-man was content with that, and put his hand in his pocket to feele soz his Purse, but there was none, which made his heart sarre moze cold then the Arrest did, and with that fetching a great sigh, hee said: Alas Masters, I am vndone: my Purse in this fray is taken out of my Pocket, and ten pounds in gold in it, besides white mony. And so, said the Sergeant, commonly in such byawles, the Cutpurses bee busse, and I feare the quarrell was made vpon purpose by the Pickpockets. Well (saies his neighbour) who shall smile at you now? the other day

One Varlet
smokes ano-
ther,

True men come by their goods.

When I lost my Purse, you laught at mee? The Farmer brookt all; and sate malle-content, and borrowed money of his neighbours to pay the Sergeant; and had a learning (I beleue) euer after, to braue the Cutpurse.

How say you to this, Distresse Kate, was it not well done? That choise witted Wench of your faculty, as shee Foyst, hath euer done the like? Tush Kate, if we begin once to apply our wits, all your inuentions are folly towards ours.

Kate, You say good, Goodman Stephen, as though your subtilties were sodaine as womens are, come but to the old Proverbe, and I put you downe, 'Tis as hard to find a Horse without a Huse, as a woman without a sence; and that wit that can deuise a cunning lye, can plot the intent of deepe villanies. I grant the fetch of this Foyst was pretty, but no thing in respect of that we wantons can compasse, and therefore to quite your tale with another, heare what a mad wench of my profession did relate to one of your faculty.

A pleasant Tale how a Whore Conny-
catcht a Foyst.

A country
Foyst guls the
City Foyts:

There came out of the Country a Foyst, to try his experience, here in Westminster hall, and strooke a hand or two, but the Diuell a snap he would giue to our citizen Foyts but wrought warily, and could not be fetcht off by no meanes, and yet it was knowne he had some twenty pounds about him, but hee planted it so cunningly in his doublet, that it was sure enough for finding. Although the city Foyts laid all the plots they could, as wel by discovering him to the Gaylozs as otherwayes, yet hee was so politicke, y they could not verse upon him by any meanes, which grieved them so, that one day at dinner, they held a counsaile amongst themselves how to coozen him, but in vaine, till at last a Wenche that sate by undertooke it, so they would sweare to let her haue all that he had: they confirmed it solemnly, and she put it in practise thus: she subtilly innuated her selfe into the Foysts company, who seeing her a pretty

The cues falling out,

pretty wench, began, after twice meeting, to waie familiar with her, and to question about a nights lodging; after a little nice louing and biding shee was content for her supper, and what else he would bestow vpon her, for shee held it scozne, she said to set a salary price on her body, the Foxe was glad of this, & yet he would not trust her, so that he put no more but ten shillings in his pocket, but hee had aboue twenty pounds quilted in his Doublet: Well, to bee short, supper time came, and thither comes my gentle Foxe, who making good chere, was so eager of his game that hee would straight to bed by the leane of Dame Batwe, who had her face so, and there he lay till about midnight, where three or foure old Whackers, whom she had prouided vpon purpose, came to the doore and rapt lustily. Who is there, saies the Batwe, looking out of the Window: Harry, say they, such a Justice, (and named one about the Citty that is a mosttoll enemy to Catpurues) who is now come to search your house for a few suite and other suspected persons. Alas sir, sayes she, I haue none here. Well, qu. they: Ope the doore. I will, sayes shee, with that she came into the Foxes Chamber, who heard all this, and was afraid it was some search for him, so that hee desired the Batwe to helpe him, that hee might not bee saue. Why then (quoth he) step into this Closet. He whipt in hastily, and neuer remembred his clothes: she lockt him in safe, and then let in the crew of Rake-hells, who making as though they searcht euery Chamber, came at last into that where this Lemman lay, and asked her what she was: O hee, as if she had been afraid, desired their worships to so be good to hee, she was a poore Country Maide come vp to the Wearme. And who is that, quoth they, that was in bed with you? None forsooth, saies shee, No, sayes one, that is a lye, here is the print of two; and besides, wherefooner the Foxe is, here is his skinne, for this is his Doublet and Vose: Then down she falls vpon her knees, and sayes, indeede it was her Husband. Poor Husband, quoth they, nay that cannot be (Quintan) for why then would you haue deuyed him at the first?

With

The Wolfe
eates the Fox

Theeves falling out,

Cardes well
packt, are as
halfe the game
won.

With that, one of them turned to the Bawd, and did questi-
on with her what he was, and where hee was: Truly sir,
saies she, they came to my house, and said they were man
and wife, and for my part I knew them for no other, and he
being afraid, is indeede (to confesse the troth) shut vp in the
Closet. No doubt (if it please your Worship, sayes one
rake hell) I warrant you, hee is some notable Cutpurse or
pickpocket, that is afraid to shew his face, come and open
the Closet: and let vs look on him: Nay sir, sayes she, not
for to night: I beseech your worship carry no man out of my
house, I will giue my word hee shall bee forth comming to
morrow morning. Your word, Dame Bawd, saies one, tis
not worth a straw. You huswife, that sayes yes are his
wife, ye shall goe with vs: and for him, (that we may be sure
he may not start, He takes his Doublet, Hose, and Cloake,
and to morrow He send them to him by one of my men:
were there a thousand pounds in them, there shall not bee a
penny diminisht. The Whore kneeled downe on her knees,
and fained to cry pittifully, and desired the Justice, (which
was one of her companions) not to carry her to Prison.
Yes huswife, quoth he, your mate and you shall not carry
together in one house, that you may make your tales all one
and therefore bring her away: and after ye Dame Bawd, see
you lend him no other cloathes, for I will send him in the mor-
ning betimes, and come you with him to answer for lodg-
ing him. I wil sir, sayes she: and so away goes the Whench
and her companions laughing, and left the Bawd and
the Foyft. As sone as the Bawd thought good, she vnlockt the
Closet, and curst the time that euer they came in her house;
now, quoth she, here will be a faire adoe, how will you an-
swers for your selfe? I feare me I shall be in danger of the
Cart. Well, quoth hee, to bee short, I would not for forty
pounds come aloze the Justice. Harry no more words I
quoth she; let me shift, if you were conueyed hence, but I
haue not a ragge of mans apparrell in the house. Why, quoth
hee, seeing it is early morning, lend me a blanket to put a-
bout

Worse fear'd
then hurt.

True men come by their goods.

hout me, and I will scape to a friends house of mine. Then leave me a patrone, quoth the Bawd: Alas I haue none, saies he, but this Ring on my finger. Why that, quoth she, oz tarry while the Justice comes: so hee gane it her, toke the Blanket and went his wayes, whether I know not, but to some friends house of his. Thus was this wile Foyst, by the wit of a subtil wench, cunningly stript of all that he had, and turned to grasse to get moze fat.

Kate. How say you to this deuile Stephen, was it not excellent? What thinke you of a womans wit, if it can worke such wonders?

Steph. Mary, I thinke, my mother was wiser then all the honest women of the Parish besides.

Kate. Why, then belike she was of our faculty, and a Patrone of my profession, nimble of her hands, quick of her tongue, and light of her taylor; I should haue put in, Sir reverence: but a soule word is good enough for a filthy knaue.

Steph. I am glad you are so pleasant Kate, you were not so merry when you went to Dunstable: but indeede I must needs confesse, that women Foysts, if they be carefull in their trades, are (though not so common) yet moze dangerous then men foysts: Women haue quick wits, as they haue short heeles, and they can get with pleasure what wee fish for with danger: but now giuing you the Bucklers at this weapon, let me haue a blow at you with another.

Kate. But before you induce any moze Arguments, by your leave in a little by talke. You know Stephen, that though you can Foist, Pip, Prig, Lift, Curbe, & vse the Black Art, yet you cannot Crosbite without the helpe of a Woman: ^{Crosbiring} ^{now most in} ^{vse.} which Crosbiring now adapes, is growne to a marueleus profitable exercise; for some cowardly Knaves that for feare of the Gallowes, leaue shipping and Foysting, become Crosbites, knowing there is no danger therein but a little punishment, at the most the Pillorie, and that is saued with a little Vnguentum Aureum as for example; W. C. is now a reformed man, whatsoeuer he hath been in his youth, now

Theeves falling out,

in his latter dayes he is growne a corrector of vice; so; whō
 soeuer he takes suspicious with his wife, I warrant you hee
 sets a sure fine on his head, though hee hath nothing so; his
 mone but a bare kisse: and in this Art, we poore wenches are
 your surest props and stay. If you will not beleue mee, aske
 poore A. B. in Turnemill strate, what a saucy Signior there
 is, whose purblind eyes can scarcely discerne a Louse from
 a Flea, and yet he hath such insight into the mysticall trade
 of Crosbitching, that hee can furnish his boord with a hundred
 pounds worth of Plate: I doubt the 'land-eyes Aste will
 kickelike a Westerne Pugge, if I rubbe him on the gall;
 but tis no matter, if hee finde himselfe toucht and stirre,
 althoughe hee boasts of the chiefe of the Cleargies fauour,
 yet hee solet his name out, that the Boyes at Smithfield,
 Barres shall chalke him on the back so; a Crosbite. Tush, you
 men are foppes in fetching spoures ouer the coles: Harken
 to mee Stephen, Ile tell thee a wonder. There dwelt here
 sometimes a good ancient Patron, that had a sayre Wench
 to her Daughter, as young and tender as a morrow Past
 Priests Lemman; hee the set vp to sale in her youth, and
 drew on sundry to be suters to her Daughter, some wooers,
 and some spiders; yet none married her, but of her Beauty
 they made profit, and inueagled all, till they had spent vpon
 her what they had, and then so; sooth. Shee and her yong Wi-
 gton turned them out of doores like prodigall Children: She
 was acquainted with Dutch, French, Italian, and Spaniard,
 as well as English, and at last so often as the Pitcher goes
 to the Brooke, that it comes broken home, my sayre Daugh-
 ter was hit on the Master veine, and gotten with child, and
 the Mother to colour this matter, to saue her Daughters
 Marriage, begins to weare a Cushion vnder her owne Ar-
 tie, and to saue her selfe with child, but let her Daughter
 passe as though she aild nothing: when the foztie Weekes
 were come and my yong Distresse must nades cry out, so;
 sooth, this old B. had gotten huswiues answerable vnto her
 selfe; and so; brought her Daughter to Bed, and let her goe vp
 and

One with
 child with a
 Cushion:

True men come by their goods.

and downe the house, and the old Crone lay in Childbed as though she had bene deliuered, and sayd, the Child was hers, and so saved her Daughters scape. Was not this a witty wonder? Stephen, wrought by an old Witch, to haue a Child in her age, and make a young Wihore same an honest Virgine: Tuth, this is a little to the purpose, if I should recite all, how many she had coozoned vnder the pretence of marriage: well woe plaine Signior? See, you were not stiffe enough for her, although it cost you many Crownes, and the losse of your seruice, He say no more, perhaps she will amend her manners. Ah Stephen, how like you this geare? in Crosbitching we put you downe; for God wot, it is little wot to in and about London, and yet I will say to thee, many a good Citizen is Crosbit in the yare by odde Walkers abroad.

Steph. I cannot deny, Kate, but you haue set downe strange Presidents of Womens preiudiciall wits; but yet though you be Crosbites, Forgers, and Rips, yet you are not good Lifts: which is a great helpe to your Faculty, to filch a Boult of Satten, or Meluet.

Kate. Stay thes a word, I thought thou hadst spoken of I. P. C. his wife, Waks haue, they bee parlous folkers, and greatly acquainted with Peepers and Fayloers, therefore meddle not you with them; for I heard say, the Belman hath sworne in despight of the Brasill Staffe, to tell such a foule Tale of him in his Second part, that it will cost him a dangerous Joynt.

Steph. Kate, Kate, let I. P. beware, for had not an ill fortune salne to the Bel-man, he could take little harme.

Kate. Who is that, Stephen, D. W.

Steph. Nay, I will not name him.

Kate. Why then I prithie what misfortune befell him?

St. Harry Kate, he was strangely walsh alate by a French Barber, and had all the haire of his face most miraculously shauen of by the Sythe of Gods vengeance, insomuch that some said he had that he had not: but as hap was, howsoe-

Theeves falling out,

uer his haire sell off, it stode him in some stead when he was in trouble was a late: for if he had not cast of his beard, and so being unknowne, it had cost him some kneeces, but it sell out to the best.

Kate. The more hard fortune that hee had such ill hap, but hasty iourneyes breede dangerous sweates, & the Physicians call it the Aie Peria, yet omitting all this, againe to where you left.

The conditions of a Lift.

Steph. You haue almost brought mee out of my matter, but I was talking about the Lift, commending what a good quality it was, and how hurtfull it was, seeing we practise it in Mercers shops with Haberdashers of small wares, Haberdashers of Hats and Caps, amongst Merchant Taylors for Holes and Doublets, and in such places getting much gaines by Lifting, when there is no good purchase abroad by Fogging.

Kate. Suppose you are good at the Lift: who be more cunning then we women, in that we are more trusted? for they little suspect vs, and wee haue as close conueyance as you men, though you haue Cloakes, we haue skirts of Gownes, Handbaskets, the Crownes of our Hats, our Plackards, and for a neede, false Bags vnder our smockes, wherein we may conuey more closely then you.

Steph. I know not where to catch you, you are so witty in your answers, and haue so many Carting holes, but let me be pleasant with you a little: what say you to Drigging or Hoise stealing? I hope you neuer had experience in that fault.

Kate. Alas simple sot, yes; and more shift to shunne the Gallowes then you.

Steph. Why tis impossible.

Kate. In faith sir no, and for prooofe, I will put you down with a story of a mad, merry, little, dapper, fine wench, who at Spillby faire had three hoise of her own, or another mans to sell: as she, her husband, and another good fellow, walked them by and downe the faire, the owner came and appeared

I will tell you wonders of this mad wench & her husband, in my black booke with both their names.

bended

True men come by their goods.

hended them all, and clapt them in Prison, the Taylor not keeping them close Prisoners, but letting them lye all in a Chamber, by her wit shee instructed them in a sozmall tale, that she saved all their lives thus : Being brought the next morrow after their apprehension, before the Justices they examined the men how they came by the Hozses, and they confest they met her with them, but where shee had them, they knew not : then was my pretty Peat brought in, who being a handsome Wull, blusht as if shee had bene full of grace; and being demanded where she had the Hozses: made this answer: May it please your Worships, this man my Husband, playing the Antchrist, as many more have done, was absent from me for a quarter of a yere, which grieved mee not a little, insomuch that desirous to see him, and having intelligence hee would bee at Spillsby ffaire, I went thither even for pure love of him, on foot, and being within some ten miles off the towne, I wared passing weare, and rested me often and grew very faint : at last there came riding by me a Servingman in a blew coat, with three Hozses tide at one anothers taile, which he led as I gest, to sell at the faire: the Servingman seeing me so tyred, tooke pittie on me, and asked me if I would ride on one of his empty hoes, for his owne would not beare double. I thank him hartily, and at the next hill got by, and rode till wee came to a towne within three miles of Spillsby, where the Servingman alighted at a house, and bade me ride on afoze, and hee would presently overtake me. Well, so forward I rode halfe a mile, & looking behind me, could see no body; so being alone, my heart began to rise, and I to thinke on my husband : as I had rid a little further, looking downe alane, I saw two lusty men coming by, as if they were weare; and marking them earnestly, I saw one of them was my husband, which made my heart as light as before it was sad : so staying for them, after a litle unkind greeting betwixt vs (for I chid him for his vnchristianlike) he asked me where I had the hoes: and I told him how courteously the Servingman had used me: why then,

Theeues falling out;

then sayes he, Stay for him, nay quoth I, lets ride on, and get you two vpon the empty hoxses, for he will euertake vs ere we come at the town, he rides on a stout, lusty yeng gelding: so forwarde we went, and loekt often behinte vs, but our Seruingman came not. At last we comming to Spillsby, alighted and bzoke our fast, and tyed our hoxses at the dooze, that if he past by, seeing them, he might call in; after wee had bzoke our fast, thinking he had gone some other way, we went into the hoxse saire, and there walkt our hoxses by and doctone to met with the Seruingman, not for the intent so sell them. Now may it please your worships, whether he had stohn the Hoxses from this honest man or no, I know not; but alas, simply I bzought them to the Hoxse saire, to let him that delinered me them, haue them againe: for I hope your Worships do imagine if I had stohn them as it is suspected, I would neuer haue bzought them into so publike a place to sell: yet if law be any way dangerous for the foolish deade because I know not the Seruingman, it is, I must bide the punishment, and as guilts leste as any here: and making a lott curtsie, shee ended. The Justice holding by his hand, and wondzing at the womans wit that had clared her husband and his friend, and saued her selfe without compasse of the Law. Howlike you this, Stephen? cannot we wenches Digge well?

Stleph. I thinke Kate, I shall be faine to giue you the Backslars.

Kate. Alas, good Stephen, thou art no Logitian, thou canst not reason for thy selfe, nor hast no witty argument to draw me to an exigent: and therefore giue me leaue at large to reason for this Supper, remember the subject of our disputation is the positive question, whether Whores or Wharres are most preiudiciall to the Common wealth. Alas, you poore Wharres doe onely steale and purloynes from men, and the harme you doe, is to imbolliish mens goods, and bying them to pouerty: this is the onely end of mens thauery, and the greatest preiudice that growes from robbing and filching: so much doe we by our theft, and more by our lecherie:

True men come by their goods.

re: for what is the end of whozedom, but consuming of goods and beggery; besides: perpetuall infamy? Wee bzing young yonthes to ruine and bitter destruction. I pray you Stephen, whether had a Merchants sonne, hauing wealthy parents, better light vpon a Whoze, then a Cat-purse, the one onely taking his money, the other bzinging him to bitter consou-
on? For if the Foxe light vpon him, or the Conny-catcher, he loseth at the most some hundred pounds: but if he fall in-
to the company of a Whoze, she flatters him, she inueigles him, she bewitcheth him, that he spareth neither goods nor lands to content her, that is onely in loue with his cogn: If he be married, he forsakes his wife, leaues his childzen, despi-
seth his friends, onely to satisfie his lust with the loue of a base Whoze, who when he hath spent all vpon her, and be
brought to beggery, beateth him out like the Prodigall child:
and for a small reward, brings him, if to the fairest end, to begge: it to the second, to the Gallowes: or at the last and worst to the Dor, or as preiudiciall diseases. I pray you Stephen, when any of you come to your confession at Wyborne, what is your last Sermon that you make? That you were brought to that wicked and shamefull end, by following of Harlots: for to that end do you steale to maintaine whozes, and to content their badde humors. Oh Stephen! enter your owne thoughts, and thinke what the faire words of a wan-
ton will doe, what the smiles of a scumpat will diue a man to art, into what leopadie a man will thrust himselfe for her that he loues, although for his swarte villany hee be brought to a loathsome leprosie.

The end of
keeping a
whores com-
pany.

Thus, Stephen, they say the Poxe came from Naples, some from Spaine, some from France: but wheresoener it first grew, it is so sorely now rooted in England, that by S. Syth it may better be called A Morbus Anglicus; then Gallicus, and I hope you will grant all these French saucurs grew from Whozes: besides, in my high louing, or rather creeping, I meane where men and women doe rob together, there alwayes the woman is most blondy: for she alwayes
wygeth.

Theeues falling out,

Women out-
strippe men in
villany.

bygeth vnto death: and though the men would onely satisfie themselves with the parties coyne, yet shee endeth her theft in blood, murdering parties so deeply as she is malicious. I hope, gentle Stephen, you cannot contradi these reasons, they be so openly manifestly probable. For mine owne part, I hope you do not imagine but I haue had some friends, besides poore George my Husband: Alas, hee knowes it, and is content like an honest simple Suffragan, to bee corruall with a number of other good companions, and I haue made many a good man, I meane a man that hath a household, for the loue of me to goe home and beate his poore wife, when for recompence I mock him for the money he spent, and hee had nothing for his pence: but the wast beleanings of others beauly labours.

Examples.

Stephen, Stephen, If Concubines could inueagle Salomon, if Dalilah could betray Sampson, then wonder not if we, moze nice in our wickednesse then a thousand Dalilahs, can seduce poore young Pouices to their bitter destructions. Search the Gayles there you shall heare complaints of Whoozes: Looke into the Spittles and Hospitalls: there you shall see men diseased of the French Harbles, giuing instruction to others that are said to beware of whozes: be an Auditor, or eares witnesse of the death of any Whiese, and his last Testament is, Take heede of a Whoze.

I dare scarce speake of Bride-well, because my shoulders tremble at the name of it, I haue so often deserued it: yet looke but in there, and you shall heare poore men with their hands in their Pige-on holes, crie: Oh lie vpon Whoozes, when Fowler giues them the terrible lath. Examine Beggers that lye lame by the high way, and they say, they came to that misery by Whoozes. Some thred-bare Citizens, that from Merchants, and other good Trades, grow to be base Informers, and Knights of the Post, cry out when they dine with Duke Humfery, What wickednesse comes from Whoozes! Apprentises that runne from their Masters, cry out vpon Whoozes. Tush Stephen, what enozimities proceed

True men come by their goods.

more in the Common wealth, then from whoresdome. Let
 sit it is almost supper-time, and mirth is the friend to diges-
 tion, I meane a little to be pleasant: I pray you how many
 bad profits againe growes from Whores? Wide-well
 would haue very few Tenants, the Hospitall would want
 Patients, the Surgeons much worke, the Apothecaries
 would haue Surphaling water, and Potato roots y^e dead
 on their hands, the Painters could not dispatch and make a-
 way their Vermillion, if tallow faced whores vled it not for
 their chakes. What should I say more Stephen? The
 Sub-tyes should haue a great misse of vs, and Whoreditch
 would complaine to Dame Anne a Cleare, if we of the sister-
 hood should not vphold her tollity. Who is that Stephen,
 comes in to heare our talks? Oh tis the Boy Kate, that tells
 vs Supper is ready. Why then Stephen what say you to mee
 haue not I proued that in soylking & nipping wee excell you,
 that there is none so great inconuenience in the Common-
 wealth, as growes from Whores: first for the corrupting of
 youth, infecting of age, for breeding of bzawles, wherof en-
 sues wurther, insomuch that the ruine of many men comes
 from vs, and the fall of many youths of good hope, if they
 were not seduced by vs, do proclaime at Tyborne that we
 be the meanes of their misery: you men Whorees touch the
 body and wealth, but we ruine the soule, and endanger that
 which is more precious then the worlds treasure: you make
 worke only for the Gallowes, we both for the Gallowes and
 the Diuell, I and for the Surgeon too, that some line like
 lothsome Lazers, and dye with the French Garbles. Where-
 vpon I conclude that I haue wonne the supper.

Steph. I confesse it Kate, for thou hast told me such won-
 derous villanies, as I thought neuer could haue beene in wo-
 men, I meane of your profession: who are Crocodiles
 when you weep, Basilisks when you smile, Serpents when
 you denise, and the diuels chiefe bzokers, to bring the world to
 destruction. And so Kate lets sit downe to our meate and bee
 merry.

Theeues falling our,

THus Countrey-men, you haue heard the disputation betwene these two conyning companions, wherein I haue shak't out the notable villanie of whores, although misse Kate this good Dyatreffe, hath sworn to weere a long Hambozough knife to stab me, and all the true haue protested my death: and to proue they meant good earnest, they beleagred me being at supper: there were some fouretene or fiftene of them in it, and thought to haue made that the fatall night of my overthrow, but that the courteous Citizens and apprentices toke my part, and so two or thre of them were carried to the Counter, although a Gentleman in my company was soze hurt. I cannot deny but they began to waste away about London, and Wybozn hath eaten vp many of them, and I will plague them to the extremity, let them doe what they dare with their bil-bow blades, I feare them not: and to giue them their last adue, looke shortly Countrey-men, for a Pamphlet against them, called The creeping Law, of petty theeues, that rob about the Sub-vybs. The limiting law discourting the orders of such as follow Judges in their circuits, and go about from faire to faire. The lugging law, wherein, I will set out the disorders at spine-holes, and kissing, how they are only for the benefit of the cutpurpes. The stripping law, wherein I will lay open the lewd abuses of sundry Caplozs in England. Beside, you shall see there what houses there be about the Sub-vybs and Towns end, that are receivers of Cutpurpes stolne goods, Lifts and such like. And lastly, looke for the bed-zoll or Catalogue of all the names of the Fopps, Pypes, Lifts and Whiggers, in & about London and although some say I dare not do it, yet I will shortly set it abroch, and whosoever I name or touch, if he think himselfe grieved, I will answer him.

New Lawes

The

True men come by their goods.

The conuersion of an English Curtezan.

Sith to discouer my parentage, would double the grieſe of my liuing Parents, and reuius in them the memozy of great amiſſe, and that my vntoward fall, would be a diſhonour to the houſe from whence I came. With to manifeſt the place of my birth, would be a blemiſh (through my beaſtly life ſo badly miſſed) to the Shire where I was bozne: With to diſcouer my name, might be holden a blot in my kindreds bzoſw, to haue a ſinew in their ſtocke of ſo little grace, I will conceale my Parents, Bin and Countrey, and throw my name with ſilence, leſt enuie might taunt others ſez my wantonneſſe. Know therefore I was bozne about threſcoze miles from London of honeſt and welthy Parents, who had many childzen, but I their only daughter, and therefore the iſwell whereſin they moſt delighted, and moze, the pongeſt of all, and therefore the moze fauoured, for being gotten in the waging of my Parents age, they doted on me aboue the reſt, and ſo ſet their hearts the moze on fire: I was the faireſt of all, and yet not moze beautiful then I was witty: in ſomuch, that being a pretty Parrot, I had ſuch quaint conceits, and witty words in my mouth, that the neighbors ſaid I was too ſoon wiſe, to be long old. Would to God either the Prouerbs had bin authenticall, oz their ſayings Prophecies: then had I, by death in my nonage, buried many blemiſhes that my riper yeres brought me to: For the extreme loue of my Parents, was the very efficient cauſe of my follies, reſembling herein the nature of the Ape, that euer killeth that young one which he loueth moſt, with embracing it too ſeruently. So my father and mother, but the moſt of all, although he too much, ſo cockered me vp in my wantonneſſe, that my wit grew to the woſt, and I warred vpwards with the ill wordes. Whatſoever I did were it neuer ſo bad, might not be found fault withall, my Father would ſmile at it, and ſay, it was but the trickes of a child,

A Harlots re-
uerſance.

Theeues falling out,

and my mother allowed of my unhappy parts, alluding to this prophane and old Proverbe, An vn-coward Girle, makes A good woman.

But now I find in sparing the rod, they hated the Child, that ouerckino fathers makes vnruly Daughters. Had they bent the wand while it had bene greene, it would haue bene pliant; but I, ill growne in my yeeres, am almost remed-lesse. The Watke that is most perfit for the sight will, seldom pzoue a Wagard, and children that are vertuously nurtured in youth, will be honestly natured in age: He vpon feth as say; Young Saints, old Diuels: it is (no doubt) a diuelish and damnable saying: for what is not bent in the Cradle, will hardly be bowed in the Saddle. My selfe am an instance, who after I grew to bee fife yeeres old, was set to Schools, where I profited so much, that I wrot and read exceeding well, plaid vpon the Virginals, Lute, and Cittern, and could sing Brick-long at the first sight: insomuch as by that time I was twelue yeeres old, I was holden for the most faire and best qualified yong girle in all that country, but with this, betrailed of my wel-wishers, in that my Parents suffered me to be so wanton.

But they so tenderly affected me, and were so blinded with my excellent qualities, that they had no insight into my ensuing follies. For I growing to be 13. yeeres old, feeling the yoke of liberty to bee loose on mine owne neck, began with the wanton Wepser, to amuse at mine owne will, and to measure content by the sweetnesse of mine owne thoughts, insomuch that pride creeping on, I beganne to pranke my selfe with the proudest, and to hold it in disdain, that any in the Parish should exceede me in beauty. As my apparell was costly, so I grew to be licentious, and so delight to be looked on, so that I haunted and frequented all feasts and weddings, and other places of merry meetings, where, as I was gazed on of many, so I spared no glances to suruey all with a curious eye: fauour, I obserued Ouids rule right:

Spec-ta-tum veniunt, veniunt spec-tentur vt ipsa.

True men come by their goods.

I went to see and be seene, and deck my selfe in the highest degree of bravery, holding it a glory when I was waited on with many eyes, to make censure of my birth. Beside, I was an ordinary dancer, and grew in that quality so famous, that I was noted as the chiefest thereat in all the Countrey: yea, and to sooth me up in these follies, my Parents took a pride in my dancing, which after ward procured my overthrow and their heart breaking.

Thus as an unbribled Colt, I carelessly led forth my youth, and wantonly spent the flower of my yeares, holding such Paydens as were modest, sooles, and such as were not as wilfully wanton as my selfe, Duppies, ill brought up, and without manners. Growing on in yeeres (as time now time carrieth for no man, I began to waite passion proud, & to think her not worthy to live, that was not a little in love; that as diuers young men beganne to fauour me for my beauty, so I beganne to censure of some of them partially, and to delight in the multitude of many wooers, being ready to fall from the tree before I was come to the perfection of a blossome, which an Uncle of mine seeing, who was my mothers brother, as carefull of my welfare, as nie to me in kin, finding fit opportunity to talke with me, gaue me this wholesome exhortation

A watch word to wanton Maydens.

Cousin, I see the fairest Hawke hath oftentimes the sickliest feathers; that the hottest day, hath the most sharpe thunders, the brightest sun, the most sodaine shadowe, and the youngest Virgins, the most dangerous fortunes; I speake as a kinsman, and wish as a friend, the blossome of a Maydens youth (such as your selfe) hath attending vpon it many frosts to nip it, and many cares to consume it, so that if it bee not carefully lookt vnto, it will perish before it come to any perfection.

A Virgins honour consisteth not only in the gifts of nature, as to be faire and beautifull, though they bee famous

Theeues falling out,

that grace Maicens much: for as they bee gliftring, so they be momentary, ready to be woyme with enery winters blast, and parched with enery Summers sunne: there is no face so faire, but the least Spoale, the slenderest scarre, the smallest bzunt of sicknesse, will quickly blemish.

Beauty (Cousin) as it flourisheth in youth, so fadeth in age, it is but a folly that sedeth mans eye, a painting that Nature lends for a time, and men allow on for a while, in so much that such as onely nime at your faire lookes, tye but their loves to a an apprenticeship of beauty; which broken either with cares, misfortune, or peeres, their destinies are at liberty, and they begin to loath you, and like of others.

For shee that is looked on by many, cannot choose but be hardly spoken of by some: for repoyt hath a blister on her tongue, and maidens actions are narrowly measured. Wherefore would not the ancient Romans suffer their daughters to goe any further, then their mothers lookes guided them. And therefore Diana is painted with a Toxafe under her feet, meaning that a maid shuld not bee a stragler; but like the snail, carry her house on her head, and keepe at home at her worke, so to keepe her name without blemish, and her vertues from the slander of enuy.

Cousin, I speake this generally, which if you apply particularly to your selfe, you shal find in time my words were well said.

I gaue him slender thankses, but with such a trumpe, that he perceined how light I made of his counsaile: which bee perceining, shak't his head, and with teares in his eyes, departed. But I, whom wanton desires had dyatone in delight, still presuming in my former follies, and gaue my selfe either to gad abrood, or else at home to reade dissolute Pamphlets, which bzied in mee many ill-affected wishes, so that I gaue leaue to loue and lust to enter into the center of my heart, where they harboured, till they wrought my small and satall prejudice.

Thus leading my life loosely, and being loathed by with the
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the applause of my too kinde and louing parents, I had many of euery degree that made lone vnto me, as well for my beauty, as for the hope of wealth that my father would bestow vpon me: sundry suitors I had, and allowed of all, though I particularly granted loue to none, yielding them friendly fauours, as being proud I had more woorth then any maid in the Parish beside: Amongst the rest there was a wealthy farmer that wished me well, a man of some forty yeares of age, one too woorthy for one of so little woorth as my selfe, and him my father, mother, and other friends, would haue had me match my selfe with all: but I had the reines of liberty too long in mine owne hands, refused him; and would not bee ruled by their perswasions; and though my mother with teares, intreated me to consider of mine owne estate, and how well I sped if I wedded with him, yet carelesly I despised her counsell, and flatly made answer, that I would none of him: which though it pinched my Parents at the quicke, yet rather then they would displease mee, they left me in mine owne liberty to loue. Many there were beside him, mens sonnes of no meane woorth, that were wooers vnto mee, but in vaine, either my fortune or destiny vious me to a worse end, so I refused them all, and with the Battle, refusing to light on the swatest blowes all day, nestled at night in a Cowheard.

It fortun'd, that as many sought to win me, so amongst the rest, there was an odd companion that dwelt with a Gentleman hard by, a fellow of small reputation, and of no living, neither had he any excellent qualities, but thymming on the Cittron: but of pleasant disposition hee was, and could gatell out many quaint and ribaldous ligs, & Songs, and so was fauoured of the foolish sort for his soppety. This shifting companion, suitable to my selfe in vanity, would oftentimes be iesting with me, and I so long dallying with him, that I began deeply (oh let me blush at this confession) to fall in loue with him, and so construed all his actions, that I consented to mine owne ouerthrow: so as smoke will hardily
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be concealed, so loue will not be long smothered, but will be
 in, by her owne secrets, which was manifest in mee, who in
 my sportling with him so bewinged my affection, that he spy-
 ing I fauoured him, began to strike when the pzen was hot,
 and to take opportunity by the forehead, and one day finding
 me in a merry vaine, beganne to question with mee of loue:
 which, although at the first I slenderly denved him, yet at last
 I granted; so that not only I agreed to plight him my faith,
 but that night meeting to haue further talke, I lasciuously
 consented, that he crop the flowre of my Virginitie. When
 thus I was spoiled, by such a base companion, I gaue my selfe
 to content his humour, and to satisfie the sweet of mine owne
 wanton desire. Oh here let me breathe, and with teares be-
 waille the beginning of my miseries, and to exclaime against
 the folly of my Parents, who by too much fauouring me in my
 vanitie in my tender youth, laid the first plot of my ensuing re-
 pentance: Had they with due correction chastised my wan-
 tonnesse, and supprest my foolish will, with their graue aduices,
 they had made me moze vertuous, and themselues lesse sor-
 rowfull. A fathers stroke is a bridle to the child, and a mo-
 thers checke is a stay to a stubborne daughter. Oh had my pa-
 rents in ouerloning me, not hated me, I had not at this time
 cause to complaine.

But leauing this digression, againe to the losenesse of mine
 owne life, who now hauing lost the gloze of my youth, and
 suffred such a base slave to possesse it, which many men of
 worth had desired to enioy, I wayed bold in sinne, and grew
 shamelesse, insomuch, hee could not desire so much as I did
 grant him: whereupon seeing he durst not reueale it to my
 father to demandaunt me in marriage, he resolved to carry me a-
 way secretly, and therefore wisht me to prouide for my selfe,
 and to furnish me euery way both with money & appazell ho-
 ping as he said, that after we were departed, and my father
 saw we were married, and that no meanes was to amend it,
 he would giue his free consent, and vie vs kindly, and deale
 with vs as liberally, as if we had matcht with his good will.

I that

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I that was apt to any ill, agreed to this, and so wrought the matter, that he caried me away into a strange place, and then using me awhile as his wife, when our money began to wax low, he resolved secretly to go into the Country where my father dwelt, to heare not only how my father took my departure, but what hope we had of his ensuing favour: although I was loth to be left in a strange place, yet I was willing to heare from my friends, whom no doubt conceived much hart, so: so: so: my unhappy fortunes: so that I parted with a few teares, and entomied him to make all the haste he might to returne. He being gone, as the Eagles alwaies resort where the carrion is, so the brute being spied abroad of my beauty, and that at such an Inn lay such a faire yonge Gentlewoman? there resorted thither many brave young Gentlemen, and cutting companions, that trickled with lust, aimed at the possession of my favour, and by sundry meanes sought to haue a sight of me, which I easily granted to all, as a woman that counted it a glory to be wondered at by many mens eyes: in so much, that comming amongst them, I set their hearts more and more on fire, that there arose diuers brauoles who should be most in my company.

Being thus haunted by such a troope of lusty rufflers, I began to find mine owne folly, that had placed my first affection so loosely, and and therefore began as deeply to loath him that was departed, as earst I liked him when he was present, bowing in my selfe, though he had the spoile of my virginity, yet neuer after should he triumph in the possession of my favour: and therefore began I to affection these new come guests, and one aboue the rest, who was a brave young Gentleman, and no lesse addicted vnto me, then I deuoted vnto him: so: daily he courted me with amorous Sonnets, and curious pen'd letters, and sent me Jewels: and all that I might grace him with the name of my servant: I returned him as louing lines at last, and so contented his lusting desire, that secretly and vnknotone to all the rest I made him sundry nights my bed-fellow: where I so

Theeues falling out,

besticht him wi h swat words, that the man began deeply to dote vpon me, insomuch that selling some portion of land that he had, he put it into ready mony, and provided Hoysse and all things convenient, carried me secretly away, almost as faste as the Bath. This was my second choice, and my second shame: thus I went forward in wickednesse, and delighted in change, having left my old loue, to looke after some other mate meze fit for my purpose: now he took my departure when he returned, I little cared: so how I had my content, a Gentleman, young, lusty, and indued with good qualities, and one that loued me more tenderly then himselfe. Thus liued this new entertained friend and I together unmarried, yet as man and wife for a while, so louingly as was to his content and my credit: but as the Pyger, though for a while she hide his claws, yet at last she will reueale her cruelty: and as the Agnus Castus leafe when it lookes most dry, is then most full of moisture; so Womens wantonnesse is not qualified by their warines, nor doth their charmes for a moneth warrant their chastity for ever, which I proued true: for my supposed husband being euery way a man of worth, could not so couertly hide himselfe in the Country, though a stranger, but that he fell in acquaintance with many brave Gentlemen, whom he brought home to his lodging, not only to honour them with his liberrall curtiise: but also to see me, being proud if any man of worth applauded my beauty. Alas poore Gentleman, too much bewitched by the wilfulness of a Whoreman had he dauid my heart to be an harbour for euery new desire, or mine eye as into to euery face, he would not haue bene so fond as to haue brought his companions into my company, but rather wold haue motored me by as a Hen, to haue kept that seruall to himselfe by force, which he could not retaine by kindness: but the honest-minded spouse, little suspecting my change, although I (God wot) placed my delight in nothing more then the desire of new choyce, which fell out thus. Amongst the rest of the Gentlemen that kept him compa-

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my, there was one that was his most familiar, and hee reposed more trust and confidence in him then in all the rest: this Gentleman began to be deeply inamoored of me, and shewed by many signes, which I easily perceived; and I, whose eare was pliant to euerie sweete word, and who so allowed of all that were beautifull, affection him no lesse: so that long perauailed aboue friendship, hee brake the matter with mee, and made not many suites in vaine, before hee had obtained his purpose: so; he had what he wisht, and I had what contented me.

I will not confesse that any of the rest had some seldome fauours, but this Gentleman was my second selfe, and I loued him more for the time at the heale, then the other at the hart: so that though the other youth bare the charges, and was sic pay for al; yet this new friend was he that was master of my affections: which kindnesse betwixt vs was so mutually cloaken, that in short time it was manifest to all our familiars, which made my supposed husband to sigh, and others to smile; but he that was hit with the bozne, was pincht at the heart; yet so extreme was the affection he bare mee, that he had rather concale his grieffe, then any way make me discontent, so that he smothered his sorow with patience, and brokt the injury with silence, til our loues grew so broad before, y^t it was a wonder to the world: whereupon one day at dinner; I being very pleasant with his chosen friend, and my choylelouer. I know not how, but either by fortune, or if may bee, some set match, there was by a Gentleman there present, a question popt in about womens passions, and their mutability in affection, so that the controuerisie was defended, pro & contra, with arguments, whether a woman might haue a second friend or no: at last it was concluded, that Loue and Loydship brookes no sello wship, and therefore none so base minded to beare a Riual. Whereupon arose a question about friends, that were put in trust, how it was a high point of treason for one to betray another, especially in leue, insomuch that one Gentleman at the Word protested by a solemne oath,

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that if any friend of his, made priue and fauoured with the sight of his Mistresse whom hee loued, whether it were his wife, or no, should secretly seeke to inuade into his roome, and offer him that dishonour to perforce his lute, hee would not be any other reuenge, but at the next grating stab him with his poinado, though hee were condemned to death for the action. All this fitted for the humour of my supposed husband, and struck both me and my sence into a quandario: but I scornfully iested at it, when as my husband, taking the ball before it came to the ground, began to make a long discourse, what faithlesse friends they were that would faile in loue: especially, where a resolute trust of the party beloned was committed vnto them: and heauenpon, to make the matter more credulous, and to quip my folly, and to tame the basenes of my sence mind, that so hee might with courtosie both warne vs of our wantonnesse, and reclaine vs from ill, he promised to tell a pleasant story, performed as hee said, not long since in England, and it was to this effect.

[A pleasant discourse how a wise wanton by her Husbands gentle warning, became to be a modest Matron.

There was a Gentleman (to giue him his due an Equire heere in England, that was married to a young Gentlewoman, faire and of a modest behauiour, vertuous in her lookes, howsoever she was in her thoughts, and one that every way with her beautifull endeavour, and outward appearance of honesty, did bind her husbands content, inso much that the Gentleman so deeply affected her, as he counted all those houres ill spent which hee past not away in her company, besotting so himselfe in the beauty of his wife, that his onely care was to haue her every way delighted. Liuing thus pleasantly together, hee had one speciall friend amongst the rest, whom he so dearly affected, as he vntolded all his secrets in his bosome, and what passion hee had in his mind, that either loyed him, or perplexed him, hee reuealed

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led vnto his friend, and directed his actions according to the
sequell of his counsels, so that they were two bodies and one
soule. This Gentleman, for all the inward fauour shewne
him by his faithfull friend, could not so withstand the forces
of fancy, but hee grew enamoured of his friends wife whom
hee courted with many swate words, and faire promises,
charmes that are able to inchaunt almost the chasteest eares,
and so subtilly couched his arguments, discovered such lone
in his eyes, and such sorrow in his looks, that dispaire se-
emed to sit in his face, and swoze that if she granted not him,
the end of a louters sighs, then would presently his heart as a
Tragicke Sacrifice to the sight of his cruell Spittresse. The
Gentlewoman wayed pittifull as women are kind-hearted,
and are loath Gentlemen should dye for lone, after a few ex-
cuses, let him dub her husband knight of the soaked order, and
so to satiffie his humoz, made sozfeist of her owne honoz. Thus
these two louters continued for a great space in such pleasures
as vnchast wantons count their felicity, hauing continually
fit opportunity to exercise their wicked purpose, sith
the Gentleman himselfe did giue them free liberte to
loue, neither suspecting his wife, nor his friend: at last, as
such trayterous abuses will burst forth, it fell out, that a
mayd who had bene an old seruant in the house; began to
grow suspicious, that there was too much familiarity be-
twene her Spittres, and her Masters friend; and vpon this,
watcht them diuers times so narrowly, that at last she found
them moze priuate then either agreed with her masters ho-
nor, or her owne honesty: and therevpon reuealed it one day
vnto her Master. He, little credulous of the light behauiour
of his wife, blamed the maid, and bid hir take hede, least she
sought to blemish her vertues with slander, whom she loued
moze tenderly then his owne wife: the maid replied; that she
spake not of enuy to him, but of meere loue shee bare vnto
him, and the rather that hee might shew such a fault in
time, and by some meanes prevent it, lest if others should
note it as well as she; his wines good name, and his friends
should

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should be called in question. At these wise words spoken by so base a Judge as his Maid, the gentleman wayed astonished, and listened to her discourse, wishing her to discover how she knew, or was so pinte to y^e folly of her mistresse, or by what meanes he might have assured prooffe of it: she told him, that to her, her owne eyes were witnesses: for she saw them unlawfully together, and please it you sir, quoth shee, to saine your selfe to goe from home, and then in the Back-house to keepe you secret, I will let you see as much as I have manifested vnto you. Upon this her Maister agréed, and warned his Maid not so much as to make it knowne to any of her fellowes within a day or two after, the Gentleman said hee would goe a hunting, and so rose very early, and causing his men to couple vp his hounds, left his wife a bed, and went abroad, as soone as he was gone a mile from the house, hee commanded his men to ride aloze, and to start the Hare, and follow to the chase, and hee would come saire and softly after: they obeying their masters charge, went their wayes, and hee returned by a back way to his house, and went secretly to the place where his Maid and hee had appointed. In the meane time the Mistresse thinking her husband safe with his hounds, sent for her friend to her bed-chamber, by a trusty seruant of hers, in whom she assured y^e he was a secret Pander in such affaires: and the Gentleman was not slack to come, but making all the hast he could, came and went into the Chamber, asking for the Maister of the House very familiarly: the old Maid noting all this, as soone as shee knew them together, went and called her Maister, and carried him vp by a secret paire of staires to her mistresse chamber doore, where, peeping in a place that the maid befoze had made for the purpose, hee saw moze then he lookt for, and so much as pincht him at the very heart, causing him to accuse his wife for a strumpet, and his friend for a Traytor: yet for all this, balluing his owne honour moze then their dishonesty, thinking if he should make an vproze, hee should but aime at his owne discredit, and cause himselfe to bee a laughing game

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came to his enemies, he concealed his sorrow with silence and taking the maid a part, charged her to keepe all secret; whatsoeuer she had seene, euen as she esteemed of her owne life, for if she did beto; say it to any, he himselfe would with his sword make an end of her dayes: and with that, putting his hand in his skue, gave the poore maid six Angels to buy her a new gown: the wench glad of this gift, woze solemnely to tread it vnder foot, and sith it pleased him to conceale it, neuer to reueale it so long as she liued: vpon this they parted, she to her druggery, and he to the field to his man; where, after he had killed the Hare, he returned home, & finding his friend in the garden, that in his absence had been grafting honyes in the chimnies, he entertained him with his wonted familiarity, and shewed no bad countenance to his wife, but disguised all his thoughts to the full. As soone as dinner was done and that he was gotten solitary by himselfe, he began to determine of reuenge, but not as euery man would haue done how to haue brought his wife to shame, and her Loue to confusion, but he busied his braine how he might reuerse his honor; inuolate, rectifie his wife, and keepe his friend: meditating a long time how he might bring all this to passe, at last a humor fell into his head, how cunningly to compass all thize: and therfore he went and got him certaine Slips, which are counterfeit peeces of money, being base, and couered ouer with silver, which the common people call slips: hauing furnished himselfe with these, he put them in his purse and at night went to bed as he was wont to do, yet not losing the kinde familiarity that he accustomed, notwithstanding he abstained not from the vse of her body, but knew his wife as a forietimes and euery time he committed the act with her, he laid the next morning in the window, a Slip, where he was sure she might find it, and so many times as it pleased him to bee carnally pleasant with his wife, so many Slips he still laid do; vne vpon her cushion. This he vsed for the space of a fortnight, till at last his wife finding euery day a Slip, or sometimes mo; or lesse, wondered how they came there, and examining

The eyes falling out,

Examining her waiting maids, none of them could tell her any thing touching them: whereupon she thought to question with her Husband about it, but being out of remembrance, the next morning as she lay dallying in bed, it came into her mind, and she asked her husband if he laid those slips on her Cushinet, that she of late found there, having neuer seene any befoze. I marry did I, quoth hee, and haue laid them there vpon speciall reason, and it is this.

Euer since I was married to thee, I haue deemed thee honest: and therefore vsed and honozed thee as my wife, parting no quall fauours betwixt vs as true lovers: but alate finding the contrary, and with these eyes seeing thee play the whoze with my friend, in whom I did repose all my trust, I sought not, as many would haue done, to haue reuenged in blood, but for the safety of mine owne honoz, which otherwize would haue bene blemished by thy dishonesty, I haue bene silent, & haue neither wronged my quondam friend, nor abused thee, but still do hold bed with thee: the world shall not suspect any thing, and to quench the desire of lust I do vse thy body, but not so louingly as I would a wife, but carelessly as I would vse the body of a false Harlot or Strumpet, and therefore euen as a whoze, so I giue thee hire, which is for every time a slip, a counterfeit coyne, which is good enough for a slippery wanton, that will wrong her husband that loued her so tenderly, and thus will I vse thee for the safety of mine owne honoz, till I haue assured passe that thou becomest honest, and thus with teares in his eyes, and his heart ready to burst with sighs, he was silent: when his wife stricken with remorse of conscience, leaping out of her bed in her smocke, humbly confessing all craved pardon, promising if hee should pardon this offence which was new begun in her, she would become a new reformed woman, and neuer after (so much as in thought) give him any occasion of suspicion or ialousie: the patient husband not willing to vexe his wife, took her at her word, and told her that when hee found her so reformed, hee would as afoze he had done, vse her louingly and as his

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his wife, but till hee was so perswaded of her honesty, hee would pay her still stips for his pleasure, charging her not to reveale any thing to his friend, or to make it knowne to him that he was priuie to their loues. Thus the debate ended, I guesse, in some kind grating, and the Gentleman went abroad to see his pastures, leaving his wife in bedde full of sorrow, and almost renting her heart asunder with sighs. As soon as he walked abroad, the Gentleman his friend came to the house, and asked for the good Man: the Vnder that was priuie to all their practices, said, that his Master was gone abroad to see his Pastures, but his Mistress was in bed; why then, sayes hee, I will goe and raise her vp; so comming into the Chamber, and kissing her, meaning (as he was wont) to haue bled his accustomed dalliance, shee desired him to abstaine, with broken sighs, and her eyes full of teares: he wondering what should make her thus discontent; asking her what was the cause of her sorrow, professing with a solemne oath, that if any had done her injury, hee would reuenge it, were it with hazard of his life. Shee then told him, scarce being able to speake for weeping, that shee had a suite to moue him in, which if he granted vnto her, shee would hold him in loue and affection, without change, next her husband for euer: he promised to do whatsoeuer it were: then saies she, I sweare vpon a Bible you will do it without exception: with that he tooke a Bible that lay in the window, and swoze, that whatsoeuer she requested him to do, were it to the losse of his life, he would, without exception performe it. When she holding downe her head and blushing, began thus: I needs not, quoth shee, make manifest, how grossely and grievously you and I haue both offended God, and wronged the honest gentleman my husband, and your friend; hee putting a speciall trust in vs both, and assuring such earnest affiance in your vnsained friendship, that he euen committed mee his wife, his loue, his second life, into your bosome: this loue haue I requited with inconstancy, in playing the Harlot: that faith that hee reposed in you, haue you returned with treachery:

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and faithfull, in abusing mine honesty and his honour. Now, a remorse of conscience toucheth me for my sins, that I heartily repent, and vow euer hereafter to liue only to my Husband: and therefore my sute is to you, that from henceforth you shall neuer so much as motion any dishonest question vnto me, nor take any vnlawfull pleasure or conuersing at my hand: this is my sute, and herunto I haue swoyn you, which oath if you obserue as a faithfull Gentleman, I will conceale from my husband what is past, and rest in honest sort your faithfull friend for euer: at this, she burst a fresh into teares, and vttered such sighes, that he thought for very griefe her heart would haue cleaued asunder. The gentleman astonied at this strange Metamorphosis of his Mistresse, sate a good while in a maze, and at last taking her by the hand, made this reply. So God helpe mee, faire swarting, I am glad of this motion, and wondrous ioyfull that God hath put such honest thoughts into your mind, and hath made you the meane, to reclaim me from my folly: I sale no lesse remorse then you doe in wronging so honest a friend as your husband, but this is the frailnesse of man: and therefore to make amends, I protest anew, neuer hereafter so much as in thought, to motion you of dishonesty, onely I craue you be silent: she promised that, and so they ended, and for that time they parted. At none the Gentleman came home, and cherefully saluted his wife, and asked if dinner were ready, and sent for his friend vsing him wonderfully familiarly, giuing him no occasion of mistrust, and so pleasantly they past away the day together. At night when his wife and he went to bed, she told him all what had past betwene her and his friend, and how she had bound him with an oath, and that he voluntarily of himselfe swoyn as much, bring hartly sorrie that he had so deeply offended so kind a friend. The Gentleman commended her wit, and found her afterward a reclaimed woman, she liuing so honestly that she neuer gaue him any occasion of mistrust. Thus the wise Gentleman reclaimed with silence a wanton wife, & retained an assured friend.

At

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At this pleasant tale all the boord was at a musing, and they said, the Gentleman did passing wisely that wrought so cunningly for the safety of his owne honour, but exclaimed against such a friend as would to his friend offer such villainy, all condemning her that would bee false to so louing a husband. Thus they did diuersly descant and pass away dinner; but this tale wrought little effect in me: for as one past grace, I delighted in change: but the Gentleman that was his familiar, and my Paramour, was so touched, that neuer after hee would touch me dishonestly, but reclaimed himselfe, abstained from me, and became true to his friend. I wondering, that according to his wonted custome, hee did not take my company; he and I being one day in the Chamber alone, and he in his dumps, I began to dally with him, and to aske him why hee was so strange, and vied not his accustomed fauours to me: he solemnly made answer, that though hee had played the foole in setting his fancy vpon anothers mans wife, and in wronging his friend, yet his conscience was now touched with remorse, and euer since hee heard the tale afoze rehearsed, hee had bowed in himselfe neuer to doe my husband the like wrong againe. My Husband, quoth I: he is none of mine, he hath brought me here from my friends, and keeps me here unmarried, and therefore am I as free for you as for him: and thus began to grow clamorous, because I was debard of my lust. The Gentleman seeing me shamelesse, wisht me to be silent, and said, although you be but his friend, yet he holds you as deare as his wife, and therefore I will not abuse him, neither would I wisht you to bee familiar with any other, seeing you haue a friend that loues you so tenderly: much good counsell he gaue me, but all in vaine, for I scorned it, and began to hate him, and resolu'd both to bee rid of him, & my supposed husband, for falling in with another familiar of my husbands, I so inueagled him with sweete words, that I caus'd him to make a peece of mony to steale me away, and so carry me to London, where I had not liued long with him, but he seeing my light behauiour, left mee to the wide world, to shift for my selfe.

Theeves falling out,

I not being brought to London, and left here at random, was not such a house done while my friend stayed with me, but that I had visited some houses in London, that could harbour as honest a woman as my selfe; when as therefore I was left to my selfe, I remoued my lodging, and gate me into one of those houses of good Hospitallity, whereunto persons resort, commonly called a Drugging-house, or, to bee plaine, a Whorehouse, where I gaue my selfe to entertaine all companions, sitting or standing at the dooze like a scale, to allure or draw in wanton Passengers, refusing none that would with his Purse purchase me to be his, to satisfie his disordinate desire of his filthy lust: now I began not to respect Personage, good qualities, or the gracious fauour of the man, when eye had no respect of person, for the oldest Lecher was as welcome as the yongest Loner, so hee brought meate in his mouth. Thus to the grieve of my friends, hazard of my soule, and consuming of my body, I spent a yeare or two, in this base or bad kind of life, subiect to the whistle of every desperate Ruffian, till on a time there resorted to our house a Cloathier, a proper yong man, who by fortune coming first to drinke, espying mee, asked mee if I would drinke with him: there needed no great entreaty, for as then I wanted company, and so clapt mee downe by him, and beganne very pleasantly to welcome him: the man being of himselfe modest and honest, noted my personage, and inditally reasoned of my strumpet like behaviour, and inwardly (as after he reported vnto mee) grieved, that so soule properties were hidden in so good a proportion, and that such rare wit and excellent beauty was blemisht with whoredomes base deformity, in so much that hee began to thinke well of me, and to wish that I were as honest as I was beautiful. Again, see how God wrought for my conversion: since I gaue my selfe to my loose kind of life, I neuer liked any so well as him, in so much that I began to iudge of one part, and me thought he was the properest man that euer I saw, thus wee fate both amorous of other, I lasciuiously

True men come by their goods.

asky and he honestly; at last he questioned with mee what country woman I was, and why being so proper a woman I would besetme to dwell oꝝ lye in a base Ale-house, especially in one that had a bad name: I warrant you I wated no knowith reply to fit him, for I told him the house was as honest as his mothers, mary if there were in it a good trench oꝝ two, that would pleasure their friends at a merre, I guessed by his Rose what Porridge he loved, and that he hated none such: well, seeing me in that voice, hee said little, but shook his head, paid for the beere and went his way, onely taking his leave of me with a kisse, which mee thought was the sweetest that euer was given mee, as soone as hee was gone, I began to thinke what a handsome man he was, & wisht that he would come and take a nights lodging with mee, sitting in a dumps to thinke of the quaintnesse of his personage, till other Companions came in and shook mee out of that melancholly, but as soone againe as I was secret to my selfe, hee came into my remembꝛance, passing ouer this a day oꝝ two, this Cloathier came againe to our house, whose sight cheered mee vp, for that spring him out of a Casement, I ranne downe the staires and met him at the dooze, and heartily welcomed him, and asked him if he would drinke, I come for that purpose, saies he, but I will drinke no moze below but in a Chamber, marry sir, quoth I, you shall, & so brought him into the fairest Room, in our sitting there together drinking, at last the Clothier fell to kissing and other dalliance, wherein he found me not coy, at last told mee that he would willingly have his pleasure of mee, but the Room was too light som, for of all things in the world he could not in such actions atway with a light Chamber: I consented unto him, and brought him into a roome moze dark: but still he said it was too light. then I carried him into a further Chamber, where by drawing a Curtaine befoze the Window, and closing the curtaines of the bed, I asked him, smiling, if that were close enough: Po, sweet loue, saies he, & Curtaine is not broad enough for the Window, some watching eye may espy vs,

Theeues falling out,

my heart misdoes, and my credit is my life: Alone, if thou
hast a closer roome then this, bring me to it: why then, quoth
A. collors me, and with that I brought him into a becke loft,
where stood a little bed, onely appointed to lodge suspicious
persons, so darke, that at noone dayes it was impossible for a
ny man to see his owne handes: how now sir, quoth I, is not
this darke enough? Hee sitting him downe on the bed side,
fetcht a deepe sigh, and said, indifferent, so, so; but there is a
glimpse of light in at the Tiles, some body may by fortune see
vs: in faith no qd. I, none but God: God, sayes hee! why,
can God see vs here? Good sir, quoth I, why I hope you are
not so simple, but you know, Gods eyes are so cleare and pe-
netrating that they can pierce through walls of Brasse. And
alas qd. he, werte loue, if God see vs, shall wee not bee moze
ashamed to do such a filthy act befoze Him, then befoze men?
I am sure thou art not so shamelesse but thou wouldest blush
to haue the meaneest commoner in London see thee in the ac-
tion of thy filthy lust, and dost thou not shame moze to haue
God, the Maker of all things, see thee, who reuengeth sinne
with death; he whose eyes are clearer then the Sunne, who is
the searcher of the heart, and holdeth vengeance in his hands
to punish sinners. Oh let vs tremble that wee but once durst
haue such wanton communication in the hearing of his di-
uine Maiesty, who pronounceth damnation for such as giue
themselues ouer to adultery. It is not possible, saith the Lord
for any whoz master, or lascinious wanton, to enter into the
Kingdome of God, for such sinnes whole Cities haue sunke,
kingdomes haue beene destroyed, and though God suffer such
wicked liuers to escape for a while, yet at length hee payeth
home, in this woold, with beggery, shame, diseases, infamy;
and in the other life, perpetuall damnation: weigh but the
inconuenience that growes through thy loose life, thou art
bated of all that are good, despised of the vertuous, and onely
wel thought of, of Reprobates, Rascals, Ruffians, and such
as the woold hates, subiect to their lust, and gaining thy Ri-
uing at the hands of euery diseased Leacher, What a mis-
erable

True men come by their goods.

rable trade of life is thine, that kinest of the vomit of sin, in hunting after maladies: but suppose, while thou art young, thou art favoured of thy companions, when thou wast old, and that thy beauty is faded, then thou shalt be loathed and despised, even of them that profess most love unto thee: then good sister call to minde the baseness of thy life, the heinous outrage of thy sin, that God doth punish it with the rigor of his justice. Oh thou art made beautifull, faire, and well favoured: and wilt thou then by thy filthy lust make thy body, which if thou be honest, is the Temple of God, the habitation of thadiuell? Consider this, and call to God for mercy, and amend thy life: leave this house, and I will become thy faithfull friend in all honesty, and vse thee as mine owne sister. At this, such a remorse of conscience, such a fearefull terror of my sin strook into my mind, that I knæled down at his feet, and with teares besought him that he would helpe me out of that misery, for his exhortation had caused in me a loathing of my wicked life and I would not only become a reformed woman; but hold him as deare as my father that gave me life, whereupon he kist me with teares, and so we went downe together, where we had further communication, and presently he provided me an other lodging, where I not only vsed my selfe honestly, but also was so penitent every day in teares for my former folly, that he took me to his wife: and how I haue liued since and lothed filthy lust, I referre my selfe to the Mercie of God, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts.

Thus Country-men I haue publisht the conversion of an English Curtezian, which if any way it be profitable, either to forwarne youth, or withdraw bad persons to goodnesse, I haue the whole end of my desire: only crauing every father would bring vp his children with carefull nurture, and every young woman respect the honour of her Virginitie.

FINIS.